National Anti-Slavery Standard.

SYDNEY HOWARD GAY, Editor. | Without Concealment---Without Compromise. | EDMUND QUINCY, JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL, } Corresponding Editors.

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NORRIS, PRINTER.

The Southern Press, South.

THE SPIRIT OF THE NORTHERN PRESS.

The mode and manner of reception of Daniel Webster's great speech, in the different portions of the country, we regard as significantly indicative of the real state of feeling, and the true measure of devotion to the Union. It has been a prevailing idea, obtained from the intemperate tone of a part of the public press, and the silly and discreditable ebullitions of a few political demagogues, that the great body of the Southern people were infected with a spirit of discontent, and factious opposition to the Union, and that the North, on the other hand, alone was true and loyal. This is not the true state of the case. We have before frequently taken occasion to show that the noisy brawlers in Congress, who assume to speak for their constituencies, are not the true representatives of the people; and that the disgusting rhodomontade, which so often characterizes Southern oratory, is rather an idiosyncracy exhibiting a depraved and vitiated taste, but in reality, meaning nothing, and intended as a display for Bunkum, rather than as an exponent of sentiment and principle.

The readiness manifested by all of us, to agree to any fair and reasonable terms of compromise, and the honest avidity with which the entire South, of all classes and parties, have seized upon the hope of reconciliation held out to them in the speech of Mr. Webster, shows that a healthy tone of feeling exists among us, and that we will all joyfully receive the olive branch of peace, whenever, in a spirit of brotherly love, it shall be extended to us. But on the other hand, how is it with our Northern brethren, and we mean the staid and sober portion of them—those who are never tempted to forget themselves from exuberancy of feeling, or the infirmities of a hasty temperament, who profess "wisdom and moderation," and are *par excellence*, the friends of the Union? Are they ready to meet us in a spirit of peace and conciliation, and to yield a little, (no we ask of them no *concession*, we simply require that they will not be exactive,) to restore harmony and good will? The rabid spirit exhibited by the Abolitionists and Free Soilers, we utterly contemn: we regard their ravings as "the idle wind which we heed not." But it is the so called *conservative press* which is the true exponent of public opinion, that exhibits a perverse feeling at variance with its professions, and which, in its consequences, will be prejudicial to the cause to which it is ostensibly directed—the Union. In persisting, as most or many of its conductors do, for the insertion of the Wilmot Proviso in any law to be passed by Congress for the government of the territories, the query *cui bono* may be pertinently put: What possible benefit is to be obtained by it? There is no imaginable contingency in which it would be needed, as a safeguard against aggression, or a guarantee for the security of any right. With it they gain nothing and without it they lose nothing. The master minds of Benton Clay and Cass, have shown conclusively that it is a pure abstraction; and the great champion of the North has demonstrated, as with a pencil of light, the lines which Nature and Nature's God has designated as impassible boundaries between the free and slave States, and hence he argues logically and rationally, that legislation on the subject is not only surplussage, but "a taunt and a reproach" to the South.

We are grieved to find, that, notwithstanding this great weight of authority, this philosophical view of the question is not sustained, and by those from whom we looked for better things. The Wilmot Proviso, with a large body of Northern politicians, and those too who are not classed as Abolitionists or Free Soilers, has become the *Sibboleth* of fealty to the Constitution: and they will not be satisfied with any thing short of its express and formal recognition by Congress. This is no way to effect a reconciliation: it is like picking a quarrel upon a punctilio, a point of etiquette after the real cause of a quarrel is adjusted.

We have before, in a number of extracts from prominent papers, given the spirit of the Southern press upon Webster's speech which was designed as the opening wedge for a settlement of all the existing causes of controversy. We will not repeat them but, only give a couple of extracts from two Southern papers, which are respectively the representatives of a large party. The Washington *Union* breathes a spirit of fervid patriotism, which is truly refreshing. After commending the speech of Mr. Webster in high tones of eulogy, the editor adds:

We trust in Heaven that he has not spoke in vain. We cannot but entertain the fervent hope that Mr. Webster will essentially contribute to the adjustment of this distracting controversy.

And again:

Our general impression from the whole is, that if the Senators and Representatives from both sections of the country would set in to the accommodation of this important question in the spirit which Mr. Webster breathes, we shall see it at no distant day adjusted by a conciliatory compromise, the present alarming excitement abated, and the Union saved.

The Charleston *Mercury* speaks of this effort at conciliation in a corresponding vein. Hear the editor of that able champion of Southern rights:

Not that we wholly agree with Mr. Webster—not that there are not many points of disagreement, but nowhere has he urged his opinions offensively; and when he reaches the true ground of the present controversy, he marks his way so clearly, and treads so loyally on the plain track of the constitution and pledges of the Government, that the difficulty is not to agree, but to disagree with him. With such a spirit as Mr. Webster has shown, it no longer seems impossible to bring this sectional contest to a close, and we feel now, for the first time since Congress met, a hope that it may be so adjusted.

Per contra—We will present a few specimens from leading Northern papers.

The *Tribune*, in condemnation of the several propositions contained in the speech, says:

Mr. Webster cannot outbid Mr. Buchanan in the Propagandists' favor, and if he could his good intentions would be futile. We doubt whether he can carry a single Northern Whig vote beside his own, even to the extent indicated in his speech. In short, the speculation is a bad one for all parties engaged in it. They have only deceived each other, and compromised themselves.

The New York *Express* gives the result of its reflections upon the speech, and after stating that "it will not find a full acquiescence of opinion at the North," adds:

We have alluded briefly, elsewhere, to the portion of the speech from which we dissent, and shall take occasion at an early day to enlarge upon the reasons of that dissent, from the facts growing out of the passage of the Joint Resolutions for the admission of Texas. We wish now to remark, that neither upon the construction given to the act of Congress by Mr. Webster, nor the execution of the law by Mr. Tyler, in his closing act as President of the United States, could Texas ever have been admitted at all. The act of admission was not only a fraud upon the Constitution, but a fraud upon its intended requirements, as understood by many who voted for it, and without whose votes it could not have become a law.

In Massachusetts, the speech creates much surprise. The Boston *Transcript* says it is received with dissatisfaction. The *Atlas* says it has created a sensation, and that, judging from the abstract given, it is not satisfactory. The other Boston papers have not yet spoken.

The *American and Gazette* is dissatisfied with the speech—it is not sufficiently explicit for that print, and in the most important part of it, viz: the right of the South to carry slaves to California and Mexico, the speech, which the editor calls "*a remarkable one*," is "obscure, insufficient and satisfactory." The editor continues:

Mr. Webster has entirely overlooked the main question, the great practical question, which is now the real issue between the people of the two sections of the Union. The South demands that slaveholders shall be allowed to carry slaves to California and New Mexico—either to all California and New Mexico, or to a part of them: there is an ultimatum of alternatives presented, either that such a right shall be conceded and secured to the South generally, as regards the entire expanse of these territories; or, that the territories shall be divided by some compromise line, one of the portions to be specially set apart for the uses of Slavery. This is, in our opinion, the real practical point, the centre and nucleus, the gist and soul, of the controversy; and upon this point, after a most careful perusal of his whole speech, we cannot find that Mr. Webster has delivered his sentiments "freely and at large," or that he has delivered any sentiments at all. The omission is a most strange and unfortunate one; but it is still an omission; and the controversy remains exactly where it did. The South demands; and Mr. Webster does not say whether the free States are right or wrong in refusing to yield to the demand.

We could show that these strictures are hypercritical and captious, but our object is to exhibit the *spirit of the Northern press*, and not to defend the views of Mr. Webster. As another indication of opinion upon this subject, we give a brief summary of objections to the several propositions that have been submitted as a compromise by the two Senators, Clay and Webster. These objections came from Mr. Seward, the Senator from the Empire State, and they are therefore entitled to serious consideration.

It was insisted that the admission of California shall be attended by a compromise of the Slavery question. Mr. Seward was opposed to any such compromise, in any and every form which had been proposed. Legislative compromises were all radically wrong, involving a surrender of the exercise of judgment, and the right to re-consider in future the decisions of the present. They were usurpations as to future questions of the province of the future legislators. What was he to give up in this compromise? Some portion of human rights, some portion of liberty, in one region, for liberty in another region. But, California brings gold as well as freedom. He was then to surrender some portion of human freedom for the mixed consideration of Liberty, Gold and Power on the Pacific Coast.

But to this compromise in particular he was opposed because of the inequality and incongruity of the interest to be compromised. California must come in whether Slavery stands or falls in the District of Columbia, New Mexico, California, or even in the slave States. What were the questions thus interposed incongruous, and therefore false issues, if not introduced to defeat the great policy. Consent on his part to the compromise would be disingenuous and fraudulent.

Neither would success attend the details of the Compromise. No laws could be made more stringent than those now in force for the recovery of fugitive slaves: and no Government had ever yet succeeded in changing the moral convictions of its subjects by force. The extradition of fugitives from justice was not admitted by the law of nature and of nations, but rested in voluntary compacts. There were but two compacts found in Diplomatic History, admitting extradition of slaves,—one among the Ancients, and the other in the Constitution of the United States. The law of nations disavows such compacts, and the law of nature written in the hearts and consciences of freemen repudiates them.

Another feature in most of the Plans of Compromise, was a Bill of Peace for Slavery in the District of Columbia; which Bill could not be granted, because the people of the free States were equally responsible with the slave States for Slavery in that District, the field exclusively of our common legislation.

The proposed Compromise of the Boundary of Texas was a Judicial question, and should be kept distinct and settled by itself alone. He also objected to the principle in which compromise rests, because it is a classification of the States as Northern or Southern, or free and slave States, leading to the position that the several classes of States as such, have a right to participation in the territories, and the consequent right to carry the property respectively recognized by them to the territories, and the setting apart to Slavery a distinct portion of such territory. In the course of argument upon this point, Mr. S. denied that the Constitution recognizes property in man. The Constitution not merely does not affirm that principle, but on the contrary altogether excludes it, and in support of this position quoted from Jay, Madison and others.

But enough of what is disagreeable, and consequently unwelcome. We shall wait for further demonstrations, before we can be induced to believe, that the mass of the Northern people, will persist in demanding an abstraction as a *sine qua non* to any terms of settlement.—*New Orleans Bulletin.*

DISUNION AND LEANNESS: UNION AND FATNESS.

The March number of the *Whig Review* is embellished with a likeness of Mr. Toombs, of Georgia, who, judging from this portrait, looks as little like a fire-eater as any good-natured, well-fed gentleman of our acquaintance. By what process a gentleman with as good digestive apparatus and well-to-do liver as Mr. Toombs appears to possess, can become a nullifier and disunionist is unknown to us. A man who has a keen appetite, a healthy stomach, and is sufficiently gastronomic in the inclination of his genius to relish good dinners and genial suppers is very much misplaced when consorting with the advocates of secession. No man who has any fat on his bones or red in his cheek ought to be a disunionist.

The genuine disciples of nullification, we take it, are hatchet-faced, lantern-jawed, slab-sided, slender-shanked specimens of humanity, marrowless, fatless, and juiceless, and with none of the cream or even skimmed milk of humanity in their composition. They are crabbed, snappish, grumbling, discontented fellows, with flat abdomens and sallow complexions, which give unmistable evidence of diseased livers, and with stomachs in which the digestion of even soft-boiled eggs is accompanied with pangs and difficulties. That chaps of such physical ailments should wish to dissolve the Union is not to be wondered at. They cannot live on good terms with themselves, and have an inalienable right to growl at everybody else and to kick against all the ties that happier men rejoice in.

A corn fed, corpulent, well-rounded gentleman, whose skin is stretched to its utmost tension by good nature and good eating, lives in a beamy atmosphere and is on good terms with everything around him. He says good morning with a smile to his neighbors, and when he talks about the Union of these States his tongue becomes eloquent with eulogies on it. No such man is found in the Garrison school in the North or in the councils of the nullifiers of South Carolina. If any such sleek, round, buttery person profess nullification or abolitionism, he is either incited to do so by some political aspiration which he fancies can best be promoted in this way, or he is gratifying an inveterate love of fun by practising a constant hoax on his unwary neighbors. If disunion ever happens, and an army of disunionists is raised, we will wager all we possess that, unless the conscription is resorted to, it will be the most scarecrow, the leanest, the thinnest army ever seen, and that, among the soldiers, there will not be found a man whose weight will be over six score pounds avoidupois. Such an army will not be in much danger of having havoc committed on its ranks by the artillery brought to bear against it, as the men will be so thin that the most matchless precision in gunnery will alone enable the enemy to cut them down.

Mr. Calhoun, the author of nullification and great high priest of disunion, is, it is well known, a mere ingenious arrangement of skin and bones. He has a great deal of brains, and but the most moderate allotment of bowels. The more devoted he becomes to disunion, the thinner he grows. If he continues to meditate on the policy of disunion a few years longer, he will be so attenuated that his body will not cast any more shadow than Peter Schemil's did, and the sunbeams will glance through it as they do through a pane of crown glass. Sir Thomas Browne says of a most wasted away body that it was not worth the compliment of a coffin. This will also be true of Mr. Calhoun's unless he gives over dreaming of the "rightful remedy," "State's rights," and other words that are found in the vocabulary of disunionists.

As a remedy for excessive fatness, it may do to prescribe the temporary advocacy of disunion. If the fat will not rapidly melt away under the intense heat of the sentiment of secession, then let the unfortunate and hopeless victim of fat regard the fate of Daniel Lambert as probably his own. But if a Cassius looking gentleman wishes to grow more portly, let him luxuriate in kindly visions of the Union of these States, let him think each morning and dewy evening of the proud destiny that awaits this magnificent republic, and he will find the happiest results therefrom. Gradually his cheeks will become both round and rubicund, flesh will accumulate on his ribs, and he will constantly grow handsomer and happier.

We warn Mr. Toombs against any further indulgence in visions of disunion. His slumbers will certainly be haunted by the most constant of nightmares. His cheeks will loose their fulness and their flush. His bones will begin to protrude from their coating of muscles. His abdomen will become as flat as a half starved flounder's. He will grow cross, peevish, and fretful in his feelings. His eye will sink in its socket, and his calf will waste away. He will grow out of his love of man and woman—the world will assume a yellowish color to his restless eye—life will become one long lenten period, from which warm breakfasts, cordial dinners, and reeking suppers will be banished—and he, like Mr. Calhoun, will lose his corporeal substance and become an "unconsidered trifle," a locomotive anatomy, a snarling skeleton, a poor, wretched, cadaverous specimen of humanity, fleshless, muscleless, and marrowless, and finally, like a Macbethian witch he will melt away into "thin, thin air." It would be a very great pity for a well-built gentleman, who rejoices in muscle and in blood, to gradually fall away until he becomes as unsubstantial as an evening cloud or as the ghost of Hamlet's father. Let him speedily abjure secession, or, in a twelvemonth, he will be as lank as Calvin Edson, and his bones will rattle in their sockets like a skeleton in chains.—*Louisville Journal.*

EFFECT OF MR. WEBSTER'S SPEECH.

The Washington *Union* professed unqualified delight at Mr. Webster's speech, but already begins to mingle its praises with many reservations. The secret of its rapid change is easily divined. The "sole organ" has been so long accustomed to wing its flight in the narrow circle of party, that when for once it assumes courage, and ventures boldly forth in the broad atmosphere of truth, its pinions soon flag, and it withdraws timorously to its safe retreat. We have been somewhat amused and edified at following the *Union* in the contest between a natural, and really magnanimous disposition to soar above the restraints and fetters of party, and its acquired and inveterate habit of sticking fast to the political prejudices of half a century. Eagle like, it would cleave the pure Empyrean, but mole-like it must burrow in the gross and filthy earth.

A correspondent of the *Union* takes that sheet to task for praising Webster, whereupon the *Union* proceeds gently and with belitting gradations, to unsay much that it had previously said. It would not of course be quite politic to take a sudden leap from the height of ecstacy to the depth of disparagement, but with time and patience, the ex-official is likely to satisfy its most fastidious patrons, we remark this sordid sacrifice to the behests of faction in no angry mood. It excites pity rather than indignation. The instincts of the Democratic organ are undoubtedly right, but years of partizan servility have undermined and sapped its independence. If the Latin maxim spoke truth when he declared that no one ever became base of a sudden, the converse of the proposition is equally sound. No one can, by a single effort, cast aside the trammels which evil influences and devotion to the ephemeral interests of mere politicians weave around the intellect. The moral perceptions must be habitually exercised, to be enabled promptly to awake to their normal functions. It is almost as impossible for the thrice-sodden partizan to acknowledge the worth and wisdom of a political foe, as for a felon to recognize the sublimity of virtue.

The tardy and imperfect justice rendered to Mr. Webster by those who love him not, is nevertheless a striking proof of the exalted merit of his speech. If it has not utterly disarmed his opponents, it has silenced them. If his patriotism and manly spirit, and broad nationality, perplex and annoy them, the sentiments of his great speech command too universally the admiration of the American people, to justify petty cavilling or open censure. Free Soil fanaticism staggers under the blow it has received, and groans in spirit at the prospect of a hopeless discomfiture. Southern chivalry, which is frank and noble even in the midst of error, does not hesitate to endorse most of the propositions advanced by Mr. Webster, and to acknowledge, that upon the basis laid down by him, compromise would be acceptable. There may be a few erratic intellects swayed and governed by the overshadowing mental power of John C. Calhoun, who, looking to disunion as the commencement of a new era of greatness and glory to the South, regret, in their inmost hearts, that Mr. Webster has sought to pour oil upon the troubled waters of sectional discord; and who would rather that he should have bent the energies of his mighty brain to the support of these Northern doctrines of which Massachusetts has heretofore been the prominent defender. Let us hope that the number of these unruly spirits is but limited. We cannot think that throughout the South there are many who would not prefer almost any decently fair adjustment of the Slavery question to the blasting alternative of a dissolution of the Union, while we are quite certain that the great mass of Southern citizens utterly scorn and repudiate the prospect of disunion, and regard it as a remedy infinitely worse than the evils from which they now suffer. One of the marked effects of Mr. Webster's speech is to encourage and fortify the sentiment. He has revived the dormant feelings of nationality, and warmed it into fresh vigor. For this, if for nothing else, is he entitled to the reverence and gratitude of every lover of his country.—*New Orleans Daily Bee.*

OHIO AND VIRGINIA.

The Governor transmitted the following Message to the Legislature a few days since. We are glad to see the Governor taking a sensible and practical view of this matter, and abandoning the ridiculous idea of redressing our wrongs by means of disunion. There is no redress in disunion. The remedy would be worse than the disease. It would strip us of the protection we now have, and supply us with none in addition.

We regret that the Legislature, instead of talking about a Southern Convention to "appeal to the North," according to the *Enquirer*, or to agitate for disunion, according to Mr. Calhoun, had not adopted some practical scheme, such as is hinted at by Gov. Floyd. If the State had adopted some such expedient as that, and authorized and directed the immediate construction of four ocean steamers to ply between Norfolk and some European port, we should have been far upon the road to Southern independence.—We have always been in favor of this scheme without reference to the unfriendly course of the Northern States. A due regard to our own interests should long since have prompted its adoption. In the present state of feeling between the two sections, it is rendered more important than ever.

There would be no difficulty in the way, if our Democratic cotemporaries were not more intent on making party-capital, than protecting the rights of the South:

Executive Department, March 12, 1850.

To the General Assembly of Virginia:

Gentlemen.—I herewith transmit to you the accompanying letter of Thomas C. Green, some time since appointed an agent to demand from the authorities of Ohio, a free negro charged with crime. His letter will explain itself.

The demand was refused; and the ground for the refusal are set forth in an opinion of the Attorney General of Ohio, communicated to me by the Governor of that State. You will discover that the reasons assigned amount scarcely to a pretext for the disregard of the Constitution. Common courtesy required that some answer should be given to a formal requisition upon that State for a fugitive from justice, made in strict conformity to the Constitution of the United States. A flat refusal would exhibit too plainly the grossness of the outrage inflicted upon this State. The attempt at reason in the opinion of the Attorney General is the flimsy veil to cover the wrong.

The Constitution of the United States provides, that "a person charged in any State with treason, felony, or other crime, who shall flee from justice and be found in another State, shall, on demand of the Executive authority of the State from whence he fled, be delivered up to be removed to the State having jurisdiction of the crime." It is impossible to conceive or express more distinctly an idea of a command. All CRIMES are recognized by the Constitution, and whether they be offences against the moral law or the statute of any State, is a matter of no sort of moment. To surrender a murderer is no more the duty of a State than to surrender a man charged with any crime whatever, made so by the laws of the State where it may have been committed.

But argument upon this subject is useless. All right-minded men are satisfied upon the bare reading of the Constitution. Those whose minds are jaundiced by fanaticism would not be convinced by any reason which human wit could devise, nor controlled by any obligation which religion itself would impose.

This sort of thing is of frequent occurrence, and must be remedied. If the Federal Government fails to furnish adequate protection to us touching our slaves, and offenders against the law concerning them, then we must take the remedy into our hands; for our citizens are entitled to ample protection in all their rights, whether of person or property. The government which, from fear or weakness, fails to accomplish this great end for which it was instituted, is deserving of neither the respect nor the support of free and enlightened men.

I am of the opinion, that a system of taxation under the license law can be so arranged as to transfer entirely the trade from those States which have trampled under foot the Constitution of the United States, to those which are still willing to abide by its compromises, and recognize our rights under it. This would be a peaceful and efficient remedy, doubly recommended to us because it is under our own exclusive control and the work of our own authorities.

The present session is too far advanced to perfect the details of the plan, and therefore I only suggest it, that your minds may be turned to the subject, so as to enable you to act with promptness and efficiency immediately upon your return next winter. A concerted and united action on the part of the South in this matter, will either redress our grievances at once, or transfer the direct European trade to the Southern ports, or build up manufactures of all sorts in our country, which would ultimately tend greatly to our strength and independence.

We now tax a tin pedlar ten dollars a year, whilst a clock pedlar has to pay fifty. The venders of all articles manufactured in the recusant States could be taxed one hundred per cent., and the vender be required to show where the articles were made.—Pains and penalties could be easily attached to any evasion of the law, which would ensure the due enforcement of it. The details could be made to embrace live stock and the products of the soil.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN B. FLOYD.

[*Richmond Whig.*

DISUNION—WHO IS FOR IT?

Chance, or something else, has placed upon our table a respectable looking sheet, published in New York, bearing the title of the *National Anti-Slavery Standard*, from which we propose making a few extracts for the benefit of those of the South whose daily toil is to cheapen the Union and labor for its dissolution.

Before doing so however we would premise that there are but two parties on this great question—one for preserving the Union of the States inviolate, and the other for sundering its bonds and rendering the idea of Republican government a matter of historic failures. The latter, however, do not harmonize together in one body, but are divided into two factions, and supported to a greater or less extent by demagogues and office seekers from all parts of this confederacy, who lend to them temporary countenance for selfish or party purposes, intending to desert them in the final struggle.

The Anti-Slavery factions of the North prone to fanaticism by false notions of Religion and morals seek a dissolution of the Union as the last resort—as the only means left to disconnect themselves from an institution which the modest among them are bound to admit is protected by the Constitution; and what is most unaccountable, there are those to be found at the South who are willing, because these fanatics desire it, to pull down the pillars of State and spread anarchy and confusion—wreck and ruin, where peace, quiet and prosperity are wont to reign.

It is not our purpose here to discuss any particular question which has been coupled with dissolution, but merely to show who it is that desires a dissolution and for what.

In an address of the President of the Anti-Slavery Society, as published in the *Standard*, he says:

The slave Power is beginning to falter—fresh adherents are daily rallying around the standard of Liberty and the cry of 'NO UNION WITH SLAVEHOLDERS' is causing the knees of the oppressor to tremble.

And the editor of that paper, animadverting upon the position of Governor Briggs, of Massachusetts who said that come what might they would be faithful to the Constitution, after summing up a long catalogue of grievances to which Massachusetts had been subjected by the slaveholding States uses the following language:

All this has been done and yet Massachusetts remains in the Union! All this has been done and Charleston has not been sacked, and New Orleans has not been laid in ashes! And Governor Briggs has the impudence, in the face of all this, to tell her sneaking General Court that they "stand here to-day the Representatives of the Pilgrims!"

Thus fairly under way the editor's wrath waxes warmer and his courage, like that of some others we wot of, South of Mason and Dixon's line, drives him into rashness, and swords, armies, and slaughtered enemies begin to dance through his piece in all the mazes of metaphorical confusion. Hear him:

The old Puritan Governor did not submit tamely to insult and injury. They believed in the sword (does not Governor Briggs?) and they smote their enemies with it, hip and thigh. Governor Briggs is Cammander-in-Chief of Massachusetts, he has under him Major Generals of Divisions, and Brigadier Generals of Brigades, and Colonels of Regiments, and Captains of Companies, and he has returns in his Adjutant General's Office of all men within his jurisdiction able to bear arms. What is all this for, except to vindicate the rights and maintain the honor of Massachusetts? To protect her citizens and redress her wrongs? When does she expect an occasion to put forth her strength, to fall back upon those reserved rights which lie behind all Governmental Agreements, if she be content to sit down in her present ignominy and her existing injury?

And still pursuing the subject with disunion in his head, and war upon his pen's point he says of Massachusetts:

Give her a thriving trade and prosperous manufactures and South Carolina may thrash her as long as she can stand over her. But, thank God, any permanent and abiding prosperity is incompatible with a Union with her natural enemy. Whatever she may have, is in spite, and not because of that unnatural partnership.

It is a little remarkable that disunionists both North and South, should assume to themselves all the courage, all the patriotism, all the justice and all the honor, while they equally brand the friends of the Union and equal rights under the Constitution and laws, as traitors, cowards, and submissionists ever keeping the idea of civil war and fraternal bloodshed before the country as the only *honorable* mode of resistance to Slavery on the one side, or free-soilism on the other.

The day may come when the Judicial tribunals of the United States shall fail to regard our Constitution, and the Executive to execute our laws; but until that time one section of the Union ought not to think of making war upon another—until that time will not be permitted to do it; and until that time it will be treason to attempt it.

But we are fully convinced that no bloodshed is intended by either faction. That is not the means by which the Abolitionists expect to rid the country of Slavery, nor is it the means by which Southern disunionists expect to accomplish their objects.

Northern fanaticism vainly supposes that by urging the question to the verge of a dissolution the South will yield to an amendment of the Constitution by which they will ultimately attain their ends; and the South, that for the sake of the Union, the North will yield the question.

How this last may be, we do not pretend to know, but we have every evidence that Abolitionists would perfer a separation to a continuance of the Union.—And we regret to say that we see too much of the spirit of indignation among Southern politicians to be able to promise that they will be content even with what the provisions of the Constitution, carried out will guarantee to them.—*Rome (Ga.) Eagle and Bulletin.*

BEHOLD YOUR BROTHER.

William Lloyd Garrison, Editor of the *Boston Liberator*, uses the following fanatical and blasphemous language:

The time has come to preach disunion on the highest moral and religious ground. The Constitution of the United States is "a covenant with death and an agreement with hell." In the name of God, of Christ, of humanity, of liberty, it must be denounced and repudiated by all who revere God, love Christ, regard humanity, and cherish liberty."

Fanatics of the South, behold this editor and own your brother! To him the Constitution has become odious, and your great leader in the Senate, has boldly in a speech, prefered dissolution to its continuance as it is—Behold your brother!—Go help him to tear down our time-honored institutions; and "in the name of God, of Christ, of humanity—of liberty," repudiate and denounce the Constitution which secures the slaveholder in his property and his rights; but in the name of justice, never presume to call yourselves friends of the South, but traitors to her interests, and co-workers with Abolitionists in the destruction of our liberties.—*Ibid.*

SURRENDER OF FUGITIVE SLAVES.

We have received from Mr. J. M. Porter, chairman of the Judiciary Committee of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, a copy of the report recently made by that committee on the subject of fugitive slaves. The existing law of Pennsylvania, made in 1847, under a strong Anti-Slavery excitement, is very severe in its prohibitions of any aid by State officers of Pennsylvania in the arrest of negroes claimed as runaway slaves, under the act of Congress of 1793. It is this law which has been so much complained of in the Southern States, and particularly in the late debate in the U. S. Senate, as a direct breach of the obligations of the Constitution of the United States. Its provisions are extremely stringent. It forbids any judge, justice, or alderman, in the State, from taking any cognizance of a fugitive slave case, under the act of Congress named, or grant any order of removal, under the penalty of a charge of misdemeanor in office, and a punishment by a fine of not less than $500, nor more than $1000. It makes it a misdemeanor, punishable by fine not less than $100 or more than $1000, with costs of prosecution, and imprisonment, at the discretion of the court, for a space of three months in the county jail, for any owner of a fugitive slave, to claim and seize him on any authority whatever, "violently and tumultuously," with or without the intention of carrying him before a judicial tribunal!

[illegible] makes it unlawful to employ any of the prisons of the State for the custody of any fugitive slave, and a fine of $500, with perpetual exclusion from office, is made the penalty for any act of disobedience, in so using the prison, by any jailer or keeper.

A bill has now been introduced into the Legislature to repeal all those clauses which prohibit the officers of the State from aiding in the enforcement of the law of the United States, made to carry into effect the constitutional direction for the surrender of slaves. Upon this bill the Judiciary Committee has made the report, which is before us. It unanimously—nine members signing the report—recommends the passage of the bill, and the total repeal thereby of all the prohibitions against the action of the State officers, and the penal enactments against the seizure of slaves by their masters in person, or by their agents.

The grounds assumed for this recommendation are purely those of courtesy. The report expressly says that the passage of the repealed act was a legal and constitutional exercise of State legislative power, but that the excitement which exists in the country, brought about by "ultra views on each side of the question" makes it evident that the act had better been never passed, and that its repeal would have a tendency to promote harmony. The repeal is called "a concession" which will have a 'soothing' effect on the Southern States, and show that Pennsylvania is willing to make some sacrifices for the peace and safety of the Union.

The intention thus expressed is doubtless extremely civil. The abrogation of such an offensive law is a sign of a better disposition than that which passed it, but the special reservation of the right to re-enact it makes the concession of little permanent value. If made through a desire to preserve the peace of the Union, what is to prevent its being re-enacted, if another legislature shall think there is no danger to the Union, or be more willing to encounter it?

The effect of the measure, if carried, will be to leave the question undetermined, how far State Magistrates are bound to assist in the execution of a law of Congress, but with the prevailing opinion especially in the Northern States, that the aid, if afforded at all, is entirely voluntary, and may be refused at will. The subject, though relieved from the hostile action of the State, is left without any State cooperation in favor of the constitutional right of the master. The permission to seize a fugitive where there is no obligation to give a legal warrant for his surrender, amounts to very little in favor of the owner.

While we are grateful for the indications of improved feeling shown in the report of the Judiciary Committee, which we hope will be sanctioned with equal liberality by the whole Legislature, we would look for some better assurance for the observance of the constitutional injunction to deliver fugitives than the spontaneous action of individuals in the free States, whether officers or citizens. When such sentiments as those of Governor Seward find applause, and the doctrine is seriously held, that individual conscience is the guide to be followed, above and against the express injunctions of the constitution, we must hold it to be very unsafe to leave the enforcement of an unpopular right to voluntary action. It is for these reasons the prevalence of such loose notions, and the want of any well-ascertained and universally acknowledged rule for the effective administration of the law of 1793, that the fugitive slave bill now before the United States Senate has been brought forward. With the powerful aid of Mr Webster, it is hoped that it will become a law of the United States, thus obviating, by the specific injunctions of an authority which must be obeyed, the necessity of such political concessions, by courtesy, as are offered in this report.—*N. O. Picayune.*

DENUNCIATION OF DANIEL WEBSTER.

The great speech of the Hon. Daniel Webster is unpalatable to the fanatics and disunionists of Boston, who, at a recent meeting in Faneuil Hall, denounced him as a traitor. It could not have been expected that his speech in favor of preserving the Union would please those who lately petitioned the Legislature of Massachusetts for its dissolution; and of course Mr. Webster is not disappointed at the condemnation of his sentiments by the worthless faction which assembled at Faneuil Hall. Their praise would not have been as acceptable as their censure; for their object is to destroy the country, whilst his is to preserve it. Among those by whom he was reviled were a clergyman and a negro, who appear to have been fit associates, from the work in which they were engaged. Whilst Mr. Webster has, won, by his speech, the respect and confidence of every friend of the Union, he may spurn the "scurvy politicians," white and black, who assail him for being on the side of his country.

We venture to assert that the members of the Fanueil Hall meeting, which condemned Mr. Webster, and who affect so much sympathy for slaves, would not purchase their freedom at the expense of one dollar for each slave liberated. If this sympathy were to cost anything it would not be indulged. Had they endorsed the speech of Mr. Webster, he might well have asked himself "what evil have I done that I should receive the praise of these men?"—*Baltimore Clipper.*

THE SLAVERY AGITATION.

There is a homely maxim that "it is an ill wind that blows nobody good." When the Slavery agitation began to assume a threatening aspect, that is, within two or three years, we regarded it as a Pandora's box filled with unmitigated evils. But we have had time to look around us, and pregnant with mischief as we supposed, and still believe it to be, it recalls to mind the maxim we have quoted. The taunts and revilings of the North have engendered bitter prejudices among us, and these are becoming deeper seated as the provocation continues. This is to be lamented, and we would that it were otherwise. But we are not to blame because it is not so. The North has provoked it by a series of outrages and wrongs that are as familiar to every Southron as household words. The consequences are becoming apparent. The South is seeking to become independent of the North by encouraging manufactures of every sort at home. We scarcely open one of our Southern exchanges without seeing an account of some new manufactory of cotton, iron or wood, springing up in our midst. And there is an encouragement to still greater advances, turning our labor into those channels found to be profitable. It must therefore go on, till Northern pockets will sorely feel the loss of Southern custom.

But this is not all. Since the North has become expert at kidnapping our negroes, our people have learned to stay at home. Not one in ten of those among us, who spent their summers at the North ten years ago, now show their faces there. Mineral waters in many localities have been discovered. Bathing and other places of recreation have sprung up among us, where, with the luxuries of life in profusion, our people of leisure and of means spend their summers, secure from the insolent sneers of the fanatic, and with their property safe from the kidnapper. These results are gratifying, though the causes of estrangement that have produced them are every way to be deplored. It might have been far otherwise if the conservative spirit of the North had not suffered itself to be bearded by fanaticism, till it shrunk back into passive submission to her fierce dictates. And we have no doubt the same spirit would have been prompt enough to stand up for the simple rights of her best customer had she seen to what results the agitation tended. But it is now discovered when it is too late. We learn that letters have been pouring into Washington, from Northern business houses, during this session, entreating their members to compromise the proviso question and allay the agitation. We shall soon see whether their entreaties will be heeded. But whether they are or not, the deep-seated determination of the South to become independent, cannot be arrested.—*Mobile Register.*

DISUNIONISM IN FANEUIL HALL

There was a meeting of the disunionists of Boston held in Faneuil Hall, on Monday evening of last week. The object of the meeting was to denounce [illegible] by Mr. Webster. Those who signed the call for the meeting are well known as fanatics of the most bitter sort. They are the same persons generally who recently adopted a resolution calling for "the immediate dissolution of the union." The meeting was addressed by Wendell Phillips, a leader of the small sect of Garrison Abolitionists, the men who are in a very great hurry to see the union shattered. It was just such a meeting as one would expect a fanatic of the first-water to grow very fiery in, and accordingly Phillips was very "eloquent" on the occasion.—He denounced Webster as "a traitor to the constitution and an apostate to humanity." Now, it must have been very funny to hear Phillips denouncing the great Massachusetts Senator for being "a traitor to the constitution," as he himself glories in trampling the constitution under foot, in denying that it ought to have any binding influence on honest men, and in calling it "a covenant with death." If Mr Webster had proved a traitor to the constitution, Mr. Wendell Phillips would have clutched him to his heart with extraordinary affection, while the fact that he has denounced the great Senator is of itself ample proof that Mr. Webster is as true as steel in his loyalty to the constitution.

Mr. Theodore Parker was also present and made a long speech. We regret that a gentleman for whose abilities we entertain so much admiration should have condescended to mix himself up with such persons as composed the meeting, should have mixed his wisdom with their folly, his strong sense with their egregious fanaticism. What business has such a man at such a place? Why should Mr. Parker wish to see this glorious union dissolved and rent in fragments? Why should he associate himself with traitors, and permit the accents of his honeyed wisdom, which have so often exalted the feelings of his hearers, to be mingled with the vile hisses of the vipers of treason? Garrison, Phillips, and their coadjutors are men of cracked heads, and hearts full of malice and bitterness. They could look on the horrors of the civil war that would rage were the Union dissolved as exultingly as Nero looked on the burning of Rome. Their devilish malignity would be gratified with spectacles of blood, and the howlings of the demons of murder and the shoutings of the infernal pack that would follow in the wake of National Discord would be music in their insane ears. But what congeniality is there in such scenes with the spirit of Theodore Parker? What is there in blood and blackness of war storms for him to love? He should leave disunion to fools and fanatics and seek to promote the feeling of a common brotherhood, the claims of which he has so eloquently exhibited in many a fervent appeal. We sincerely hope that he will speedily recover from that aberration of judgment under which he consented to address a brood of traitors, and henceforth conduct himself more consistently with his professed love and reverence for the pure and calm and holy spirit of Christianity.

As for the Garrisonites who promoted this meeting to denounce Mr. Webster, they were only pursuing their vocation. They are madmen who can terrify nobody. But we hope the infection of madmen may not vitiate nobler minds, minds which have heretofore exerted themselves in behalf of the claims of peace and love and humanity and brotherhood.

We are sorry that the voice of disunion should ever have been heard in Faneuil Hall, that glorious old hall in which the echoes of the eloquence of the whole-hearted champions of liberty, proclaimed during the war of our revolution, yet seem to linger. While we regret the pollution of the venerable place by the clamor of the advocates of disunion, we rejoice that in Boston, that city so rich in her revolutionary annals and in the illustrations she has given of devotion to the spirit

we begin to conclude that the old man was right.—*Montgomery (Ala.) Advertiser and Gazette.*

We stated in a former article that the institution of the South had no advocate north of Masons' and and Dicksons Line. But this remark should be qualified; for though the *New York Herald* is not an advocate of our slave institution, yet that fearless and able journal has ever stood forth as the defender of the South against the violence and injustice of the North, and in this respect the *Herald* has taken and maintains a position that no other Journal at the North has dared to assume, or could probably have assumed without being crushed by the overwhelming public opinion of the country. But the *Herald* has always received a larger share of its support at the South than any other Northern paper, and in this crisis, it is but justice that its patronage should be still more widely extended amongst us.—*Galveston (Texas) News.*

The Anti-Slavery Standard.

Without Concealment---Without Compromise.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 1850.

SIXTEENTH

ANNIVERSARY

OF THE

AMERICAN ANTI-SLAVERY SOCIETY.

The Sixteenth Annual Meeting of the American Anti-Slavery Society will be held at the Broadway Tabernacle on TUESDAY, the Seventh of May, 1850.

At no moment since the commencement of the Anti-Slavery enterprise have the devoted zeal and earnest efforts of its advocates been more needed than at this. The American Society stands now as it did at the beginning, the *sole enemy*, through all the United States, to the system of American Chattel Slavery. The magnitude of its work, and the importance of the obstacles in the way of its accomplishment are yearly made more and more manifest, as every party and organization that have hoped to struggle against the Slave-power by consenting to compromise with it, successively retire from the contest either glorying in successful treachery or submitting to shameful defeat. A contest of near twenty years has proved that the only hopeful issue with Slavery is the demand for the IMMEDIATE AND UNCONDITIONAL EMANCIPATION OF EVERY SLAVE, and that such a consummation can never be attaind so long as we maintain a political Union with Slaveholders.

The Northern boundary of the slave States is the same to-day that it was when the American Society came into existence; its Southern is extended Westward and Southward embracing vast and fertile territories sufficient to insure its existence for centuries to come. It is something to be thankful and hopeful for that this extension has not been without a struggle, and that that struggle becomes daily more and more earnest and determined. It will be entirely successful when the North is awakened to the conviction that the Abolition of Slavery will alone determine its extension—that a Southern and Western boundary will no longer be contended for when its Northern is destroyed.

The ABOLITIONISTS of the American Society alone are devoted to this work. The Annual return of the Anniversary of their organization should remind them, each and all, of the duty they have assumed, and the responsibility which they have recognized as their own. He who does the most to make its action and its voice the most efficient will have only done the least he ought to do.

The meetings of the Society will be continued, as usual, for three days. The place of meeting will be named in future notices.

WM. LLOYD GARRISON, *President.*

Wendell Phillips, Sydney Howard Gay, } *Secretaries.*

The Annual Meeeting.

For the first time since the arrangements for the Annual Meeting of the American Society have been made by the writer of this paragraph—for six years—has there been any difficulty in procuring a hall for the business meetings. The Apollo, where the Society has several times met, was refused us by the keeper on the ground that having been subjected to some odium heretofore because of the meetings being held in that place he was not willing to be subjected to the like again.—Clinton Hall, at the corner of Beekman and Nassau streets, a place which has been had heretofore for any and every purpose—cash in hand—and no doubt can and will be again, was refused to us. The virtuous keeper thereof has suddenly found that he hath a conscience other than that which he carries in his pocket-book, and does not 'approve'—*approve* was the word—of the principles of the American Society. He approve! We wonder if he knows of any other principle than that which admits of interest at the highest Wall street rates, usurious or otherwise. We dare say though, that he understands enough of the matter, being probably a good Whig, to follow the lead of his Captains Webster and Clay. Indeed we may thank Mr. Webster that these janitors of public places have plucked up courage enough to refuse, as a token of their fidelity to the Union and the Compromises, a certain number of hard dollars tendered. So true is it that small men as well as great have their trials and their crosses.

We have nevertheless secured an excellent place for the meetings, which will be held in the hall of the Society Library, No. 348 Broadway.

We are encouraged to hope for an unusually large attendance of delegates this year, and the list of Speakers at the Anniversary will go far to secure that result.—It is:

William H. Furness, *Philadelphia.*
Frederick Douglass, *Rochester.*
William Lloyd Garrison, *Boston.*
Wendell Phillips, "

Others of the most distinguished Speakers in the Cause will be present at the meetings, enough, no doubt, to ensure a lecture each evening, from one or more, beside the regular daily session.

The Glorious Union.

"They that are whole need not a physician, but they that are sick," was said of old, and we suppose is as true now as ever it was. If so, the Glorious Union under which we live must needs be sick unto death, if one may judge from the throng of regular and irregular practitioners that flock to its rescue. Not one of State physicians at Washington, whatever may be the school of his practice, but must try his hand at the restoration to health of this most interesting patient. Not a quack, North or South, but must interpose his nostrum between the Union and its demise. Not a Speech can be made in Congress or in State Legislature, not a toast given at a festival or patriotic banquet, but involves some prescription for the disease, or at least, some prayer for the sufferer. The political papers, of all complexions, are as full of panaceas for the body politic as of empirical remedies for the corporal essence, and of puffs of the one as of the other. And yet the tone in which the Union is spoken of is usually one applicable to an immortal soul rather than to a perishable body. Its immortality is assumed, and still every body seems to think that it is in imminent danger of a violent death, which can only be averted by the unanimous interference of all the doctors, apothecaries, nurses and gossips in general, to say nothing of mountebank quacks and their jack-puddings, the Sangrados, the Sganarelles, the Slops, the Lasts, the Gamps and the Priggs, that this great country can furnish forth.

Now it is very certain that all this outcry is not called out by a natural and normal state of health. This kind of fowl is not congregated together by the savour of good health any more than carrion crows and turkey-buzzards by that of a wholesome beast. People do not send to enquire every day after the health of a friend whom they have no reason to believe to be in other than good condition; nor are prayers offered up in the Churches for John Smith in robust health, but when he is "very weak and low." Such a general anxiety as seems to prevail as to the pulse of the Union, and such a desire to postpone its dissolution as is everywhere expressed, must inevitably stand for some type in Nature, for some distemperature that lays siege to the citadel of life. Protestations of loyalty are not loud when the crown is in no danger. It is

"When dubious title shakes the madded land,"

that men think it necessary to renew their professions of allegiance. The fact is, that men feel, North and South, that the foundations of the Union are not everlasting, nor laid in the eternal nature of things. Though the great and terrible image, which we are bid to fall and worship has a front of brass and limbs of iron, its feet are but clay; and the stone is already cut out of the mountain and without hands which will break it in pieces and grind it to powder. And this is felt in the secret chambers of all men's thoughts, who have any to which to retire; and it is made manifest in every political and ecclesiastical demonstration in this direction.

And this is the inevitable consequence of men being made as they are. When antagonist principles are harnessed together to any political chariot, it is always rough riding in it, until the one has destroyed the other. And even then it is not so annihilated that it will not rise again and endanger, if not upset, the machine at last. In Europe the monarchical and popular principles have ever been in collision with each other, until one or the other obtained a temporary supremacy; but even then the vanquished antagonism was not dead but sleeping, and often awoke to a terrific vitality. In England the popular principle brought Absolutism to the block in 1649, and, after a struggle of a generation, the middle term of Constitutional Monarchy was invented in 1688, which, by the elasticity inherent in it, has lasted to this day. In France the principle which was typified by the cap of liberty which Marcel placed on the head of Charles the Sage, when Regent after Poitiers, was by the cunning from which he derived his sirname overlaid by its opposite of which the round and top of sovereignty was the emblem. By the skill and luck of his successors the rights of the people and the power of the nobles were melted down into the iron sceptre of Louis XIV.; but in 1793 the terrible revival of the long smothered popular element shivered it and the system which it allegorized into atoms. So throughout Europe has the history of every nation that has emerged from barbarism presented this struggle of antagonisms, now the one and now the other predominating. Russia, the "despotism tempered by assassination," being perhaps the only exception; yet in appearance only, for her civilization is hardly yet begun. The last two years have been but the contemporary exposition of this great law of conflict.

All this is but another Statement of the existence of a Divine Government, which, whatever Mr. Webster may think, is the true model of the schemes which men may seek to construct. There are certain eternal laws of mind and of matter, in opposition to which it is in vain to set up the devices of men. Constitutions and Institutions are permanent just in the proportion that they are in accordance with the everlasting laws of God and Nature. It is as vain for men to endeavour to give immortality to a lie by tying it to a truth as to seek to restore a dead body to life by binding it to a living one. The Union of the States cannot endure because there is no natural, but only a mechanical, cohesion between its parts. Their tendency is not centripetal but centrifugal. It is not merely want of moral sensibility, but of intelligent appreciation of self-interest, that keeps the North in the Union. No aristocracy exists except by the consent of the subject multitude. As the many become enlightened the power of the oligarchy is broken. This dissemination of intelligence cannot be hindered, even in the most absolute despotisms or most compact aristocracies of the old world. In this country, the Northern States that is, there is no possibility of stopping the diffusion of knowledge on this subject. Mr. Webster's Boston backers may return him their humble thanks for having "recalled them to their duties under the Constitution," to wit, of eating all their words against the Annexation of Texas and the Extension of Slavery, and of suffering the Minority in Congress to bully the Majority into obedience; but they constitute but a tenth part of the voters of Boston, and only a hundred and sixty-ninth (or thereabouts) of those of the State. But these gentlemen cannot keep the knowledge from the rest that a handful of some seventy-five thousand voting Slaveholders, by virtue of their slaveholding, do what they like with the other twenty millions of inhabitants. And it is not likely that they will forever submit to such a state of things.

There is something the more comic in the assentation of these courtiers of our God-like Canute, forasmuch as it goes beyond that of the flatterers of the stout old Dane of yore. When he issued his commands to the Ocean and bid its proud waves be still, his attendants nudged each other behind his back and tipped one another the wink, marvelling that he should be such a fool as to believe them. But these worthy followers of the Marshfield Canute really seem to think that he can do what he proposes, and that the tide of agitation will cease to flow in obedience to his potential voice! But we would advise him and them to stand out of the way, if they rely upon his words of power. A Lapland witch has as much power over the polar seas as this bankrupt political stock-jobber has over the Ocean Stream of thought and passion which is poured around our Northern world, as was the handi-work of Vulcan around the Shield of Achilles. Do they not see that instead of calming the surface, he has but broken up the depths and made the whole world of waters to boil like a pot? Even Mr. Clay (the strongest proof we have seen yet that "Age has clawed him in his clutch,") thinks that the passage of such a Compromise as will be hatched out of the cockatrice's eggs which have been put under the Senate's Committee of Incubation, will be followed by such a calm as succeeded his Missouri Compromise! He overlooks the new element which has been introduced into the political and religious relations of the country since then, and to the operation of which he himself has rightly attributed the state of things which he deplores. We mean the Anti-Slavery Movement proper, the due and natural influences of which have aroused the tempest of Agitation which makes such a dreadful pother over the heads of Washington politicians. Mr. Clay is strangely infatuated if he suppose that the sweep of such a surge is to be bound or checked by the chains and whips of such a Xerxes as he or as Mr. Webster, whatever attendant Flattery may say.

"New praise is tried, till madness fires his mind,
The waves he lashes and enchains the wind."

Herein consists the hope of our deliverance. The Anti-Slavery Agitation never can die out. It has been going on increasing from its day of small things in spite of the steady opposition of the State, and the Church and of all the usually controlling influences of Society. It has taken possession of Congress and turned it into a great Anti-Slavery Debating Society, with the whole country for an audience. Increasing attention to the subject must be followed by growing intelligence and a more earnest sense of responsibility and duty. These feelings will take various shapes and will approach the object that excites them by different ways. But they will never cease to haunt it and make it uncomfortable in its wickedness. Fortunately it does not take many to ring the Alarm-bell (that bell which Burke tells us we should rejoice to hear when the City is on fire), and as it has been kept clashing for twenty years with few hands at the rope and with a neighbourhood hating the disturbance more than the conflagration, we think it is more than Mr. Clay or Mr. Webster can do to silence it. That the American Union must come to an end, if the element of Slavery be not eliminated, is as certain as that the Union between the Thirteen Colonies and England must have ceased, at some time, even if it had been postponed from 1776, or as it is that great changes must take place in the political arrangements of Continental Europe It is merely a question of time. And all the professions of loyalty and allegiance with which our great great men and little great men think it necessary to garnish their speech withal, are symptoms not of health but of conscious weakness. The true friends of the country are they who are proving that the Union is a delusion and a snare, as now constituted, strong only for evil and impotent for good. Increasing multitudes are growing up to the knowledge of this truth, and the day of its reduction to practice will be that from which History will date the birth of the Republic.

E. Q.

We noticed a week or two since a requisition made by the Governor of Virginia on the Governor of Ohio for the rendition of a colored man who had assisted in the escape of a slave into the latter State, and the recommendation made by the Governor of Virginia, in a message to the Legislature, of a system of reprisals upon citizens of Ohio to be resorted to in return for this non-compliance of her Executive to aid and abet in slave-catching for the Virginians. The *Columbus State Journal* thus sets forth all the facts in the case. The demand, it will be observed, was not for a fugitive slave, but for one who was only charged with assisting a slave to escape. We wish Virginia might adopt her Governor's proposal of non-intercourse with Ohio on this issue:

A black man, called Buck, otherwise Oliver, once a slave in Hampshire county, Va., had, by the last will and testament of his master, been set free. He came to the State of Ohio and settled. After some time he went back to his old home, and soon returned to Ohio. After he left Virginia the grand jury of Hampshire county found a bill of indictment against him; said bill contained two counts.

The first count charges Buck with *advising* a certain slave, called Nelson, to abscond from his master.

The second count charges him with furnishing Nelson with a copy of his former master's will, by which he, Buck, was liberated, for the purpose of being used to deceive others. Also with furnishing him with a horse, and with piloting him out of the State,

This indictment was found in June, 1849. In December last the Governor of Virginia sent a special agent here to demand Buck as a "*fugitive from justice.*" The agent brought an authenticated copy of the indictment, and all the usual papers when a claim of this kind is made. No objection was at any time made to the *form* of the requisition.

After a careful examination of the documents, Governor Ford called to his assistance the Attorney General of the State, Henry Stanbery, and the papers were all submitted to him, with a request that he would examine them, and report upon their sufficiency, &c. This was done, and Mr. Stanbery soon after submitted to the Governor a *written opinion* that the papers did not make out a case which authorized or required the Governor to grant the requisition asked. The argument is one of that clear and conclusive character that might be expected from the eminent legal ability of Mr. Stanbery. It assumes that the intention of that clause of the Constitution requiring fugitives from justice to be delivered up, did not cover minor classes of offences in the criminal codes of States, but had reference only to the higher class, such as murder, arson, &c. It avers that the offences charged in the indictment are *not* offences in Ohio, that no such crimes are known to the common law; that neither the common law or the statute law recognizing any such offence as is charged, the Governor, in accordance with well settled and long continued practice, ought to decline a compliance with the requisition.

These views corresponded in all respects with the views of Governor Ford in the premises, and therefore on the 21st of February last he wrote a letter to the Governor of Virginia, informing him of the result of his deliberations. And thus ended the case so far as Ohio is concerned.

The Southern Convention.

The Southern politicians have either come to the conclusion that the threat of Disunion has already done the work for which it was intended, or else the people of the South are in reality far more fearful of Disunion than they are of the prohibition of the extension of Slavery. Both suppositions are no doubt to a certain degree true. Northern representatives in Congress are brought to that temper that they are ready to yield all the South demands; and this, not so much because they or their constituents have changed, as because the voice of right, which is somewhat disposed to make itself heard from the North, is stifled and silenced by the loud din and clamor of a corrupt press seconding and sustaining the current leaders of party. This point gained, the object of the proposed Convention at Nashville is gained, for that was intended not to dissolve the Union, but only by threatening its dissolution to settle the Slavery question in favor of the South. But then, on the other hand, we believe that the Convention was likely to be a failure if attempted, because the mass of the people of the South do verily hold the Union as of far more value than even the existence of Slavery, and would not to save the one be willing to put the other in jeopardy. The North can abolish Slavery by dissolving the Union; but the South can not and will not dissolve the Union to prevent Emancipation.

But whether we are right in this or not, that the proposed Southern Convention is a failure is a "fixed fact," and we cannot better show this than by copying from the *Richmond* (Va.) *Times* a portion of an article on this subject, which shows what has been the action of the several Southern States in regard to it. The *Times* says:

Delaware, though usually denominated a slave State, is not so in feeling. Her representatives in Congress have generally voted for the Wilmot Proviso. She has never declared against any Northern aggression, still less has she undertaken to unite with the Southern States in devising "the mode and measure of redress."

The Legislature of *Maryland*, at its recent session, adopted unanimously a series of resolutions avowing her purpose to stand by her sister States of the South, in resisting the Wilmot Proviso, Abolition in the District of Columbia, or interference with the slave trade between the States; but no declaration was made in favor of the Southern Convention, nor has there been, so far as we are informed, any popular movement in any of the counties, for the purpose of electing delegates.

In *North Carolina*, there was no session of the Legislature last winter. The counties of the Wilmington Congressional District have had a District Convention, which appointed two delegates to Nashville. In other parts of the State, we believe no similar convention has yet been held. In Granville and some other counties, the people have, in public assembly, condemned the scheme of the Southern Convention.

In *South Carolina*, the members of the Legislature, in an informal meeting, previously sanctioned by the Legislature itself, appointed delegates to Nashville from the State at large, and recommended the people of each Congressional district to meet in district Convention and choose other delegates. The recommendation has been generally responded to.

In *Georgia*, the Legislature made provision (if we correctly understand a statement in the last Savannah Georgian) for a general election by the people of delegates to Nashville, to take place throughout the State on Tuesday, the 2d inst. We have not received any intelligence of the result. The *Savannah Georgian* of the 2d, expresses the apprehension that the vote would be a small one, for it says that "many of the people believe that the time for action has not yet come; they still cherish the hope that all difficulties will be settled by Congress, and that the Nashville Convention will be unnecessary." The *Georgian*, however, declares (and we doubt not truly) that a small vote for the Convention would be no indication of a division of sentiment as to the main point of uniting to resist oppression when it shall be clearly necessary. At preliminary meetings in several of the counties, the Nashville Convention has been discountenanced.

In *Florida* the Legislature was not in session. The members of Congress urged the Governor to invite the people to hold primary meetings, to organize district conventions, which should elect delegates to Nashville. But Gov. Brown declined to adopt their counsel. In some of the counties, meetings have been held, and we think it probable that the State will have its full compliment of delegates, though some opposition has been manifested, particularly in Talahassee and Pensacola

In *Alabama*, the Legislature failed to agree upon any prevision for the election of delegates, the Senate favoring one set of resolutions, and the House another. A legislative caucus, however, assembled at the close of the session, and undertook to name delegates for each of the Congressional districts. One of the gentlemen named (and perhaps others) has declared himself not satisfied with the mode of his appointment, and has referred the matter to the people of his district. The assumption of the members of the Legislature, to act, in their individual capacities, for the people, is freely commented upon and condemned in many of the Alabama papers

Mississippi is the State which began the Southern Convention movement. At a popular Convention held at Jackson, on the 1st of October last, and called to consider the questions involved in the sectional controversy, a resolution recommending the Nashville Convention and fixing the time of its meeting, (the first Monday in June next,) was adopted. This same popular Convention, or Caucus, held at Jackson, appointed twelve delegates to represent Mississippi at Nashville, four for the State at large, and two for each of the Congressional districts. But this appointment, from its having grown stale, or for some other reason did not give satisfaction, and, on Wednesday, the 6th March, the members of the Legislature met in caucus, and made another appointment of twelve delegates, adopting in only four instances the nominations previously made at Jackson. It cannot be told which of the two sets of representatives (if either) the people would prefer.

In *Louisiana*, resolutions recommending the people to send delegates to Nashville, were passed by the Senate, but, in the House of Representatives, they were stoutly opposed, and were postponed from week to week, and finally the Legislature adjourned without any action upon them. It is now entirely doubtful whether the people will move in the matter.

In *Arkansas*, we are not able to state what has been done with reference to the Nashville Convention, but our impression is that a representation in the body has been secured in some mode or other.

In *Missouri*, the Legislature adopted very strong Southern resolutions, which, Mr. Benton charged, had their origin in Calhounism, but nothing was said about the Nashville Convention, and we are not aware that the people have anywhere manifested a desire to be represented.

In *Kentucky*, a proposition in favor of the Convention was introduced into one of the Houses, but it was never brought to a vote, and was permitted to die a natural death. In a few of the counties, the project of electing delegates has been mooted, but the scheme is generally discountenanced, and there is no probability that Kentucky will be represented.

In *Tennessee*, the State which was expected to welcome the Convention to her bosom, the House of Representatives adopted (by a vote of 34 to 28, the nays being all Whigs but one) a resolution requesting *the Governor* to appoint two delegates to the Nashville Convention for the State and two for each Congressional district, and recommending the people of each county to appoint one or more in addition. The Senate, on the other hand, adopted a resolution declaring it to be no part of their delegated trusts to aid in organising a Southern or any other Convention, and referring the whole matter to the people. The probability now seems to be that the people of Tennessee will not do more than their Legislature in approving the Convention. It is represented by the New Orleans Crescent, an independent paper more Democratic than Whig, on the authority of an intelligent citizen of Nashville, that the people of that city have such repugnance to the meeting of the Convention in their midst, that neither the State Capitol nor any of the churches will be granted for its sittings.

In *Texas*, the Legislature took action in favor of the Nashville Convention, but we are not informed whether it appointed the delegates or left that to the people. One of the Galveston papers represents that the proceeding was not warranted by public sentiment.

As an instance of how the proposal of the Convention is received in some localities take this from the *Southern Banner* published at Athens, Ga.:

At 12 o'clock we called at the Town Hall (the place for holding elections) to ascertain what progress was making in the election, and found a magistrate and constable, with one or two other persons, quietly seated at the table—but no poll opened and no voters! Upon inquiry, the magistrate informed us that it was impossible to organize a legal tribunal for holding the election, as no free-holder would act—and furthermore, not more than half a dozen persons had appeared with a desire of voting. At 8 o'clock we called again to see if there had been any alteration since 12 o'clock. The only change we noted was, that the before opened doors of the Hall were closed, and the room entirely deserted. Not a soul present in or about the Hall. This state of things continued throughout the day, until nearly 5 o'clock, (the hour for closing the polls) when an organization was effected, and two votes were cast for Delegates to the Convention.

The same paper of a later date gives the following table as the result of the vote on the Convention in different parts of that State.

We have stated in our last the aggregate vote of this country to be 27 out of 1,000 votes. Now for the other counties:

In Richmond the vote was about			127	out of 1,200
.. Oglethorpe—no vote.				
.. Wilkes,	..	..		
.. Madison,	..	..		
.. Floyd the vote was 53 out of about			1,300.	
.. Pike, (Griffin precinct,) 29 out of about			500.	
.. Cass, 100 out of about			2,490.	
.. Cobb, 126 out of about			2,000.	
.. Lumpkin in the vote was about			27	out of 1,500.
.. Baker	..	..	26	.. 800.
.. Newton	..	..	21	.. 1,400.
.. Jasper	..	..	89	.. 1,000.
.. Hancock	..	..	42	.. 800.
.. Warren	..	..	131	.. 1,000.
.. Troup	..	..	14	.. 1,500.
.. Muscogee	..	..	113	.. 1,900.
.. Chatham	..	..	428	.. 1,600.
.. Baldwin no polls opened.				
.. Morgan	..	..		
.. Paulding	..	..		
.. Emanuel	..	..		
.. De Kalb	..	..		
.. McIntosh, 43 votes.				
.. Effingham, 8 votes.				

A similar analysis of the votes in other States would no doubt be equally significant. "The popular voice," says the *Banner*, "has condemned the Convention, such as it is, as *premature*—unnecessary—mischievous at the present time." Would the South ever find such a movement otherwise? We doubt it. Yet to such a bugbear do Northern men in Congress sacrifice without scruple, and to serve their own ends, the interests of the Northern States and the rights of man.

John M. Barrett.—We mentioned last week the death of this individual, whose name is another added to the long list of those who, within the last twenty years, have fallen victims, for opinions' sake, to the inexorable vengeance of the slave-power. From the *Indiana Courier* of the 17th instant, we learn that even his death may not, perhaps, save his relations from the pecuniary loss arising from his non-appearance before the South Carolina Court to answer the indictment pending against him. That paper says:

It is within the knowledge of most of our readers that John M. Barrett, whose death we announced a couple of weeks ago, was under recognisance bonds of $1,000 (the money being deposited with the Clerk of the Court,) for his appearance at the March term of the Spartanburg [S.C.] Court. By the following from the *Spartan* of the 7th ultimo it will be seen that the bond is forfeited:

"Our Court is now in session. His Honor Judge Withers, presiding. Barrett has not made his appearance. It is said here that he had been attending the Law Lectures at Cincinnati, but by the advice of his physician he had given it up, in consequence of bad health, and has returned to his home in Indiana."

We hope if there is any justice in a South Carolina Court, that this money will be refunded to the father of Barrett, a poor, but worthy and honest man, by whose exertions it was raised and sent to Carolina to release his son from prison.

The *Tribune* asks if, amid all the talk in these days about Compromise, something cannot be done to protect Northern citizens who may have occasion to travel South. Can not our excellent neighbour remember that one of the Compromises is that Northern citizens shall not be so protected? Surely till the North is determined to extend the right to "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" to Southerners on her own soil, she need not look to do it to Northerners who unfortunately fall under the ban of the South.

The Whig Platform.—The new Whig organ at Albany, the *State Register*, has defined the position of its party in what the *Journal of Commerce* calls an 'able article,' and in the course of it thus lays down what we are now bound to consider as the Whig platform:

The attempt to make the Whig party an Anti-Slavery party is not only impracticable, but if possible, would be, according to Washington and his present worthy successor, fraught with the worst consequences to our country. In its operation upon the party, the movement thus far has been most pernicious. Beyond all question it lost us the election of 1844, and well nigh wrecked us in 1848. It portends nothing but unhappiness and evil to us in the future. If there has been any party purpose in the adoption by Whig conventions and legislatures of Anti-Slavery doctrines, it has most signally failed. Instead of gaining the support of the Abolition party, we have received only their bitterest hostility, and time and again they have given the victory to our antagonists, even when they knew that by so doing they would defeat the objects they professed.

As the *Register* is a new paper, it probably feels that it is making no confession of personal hypocrisy in admitting so coolly that all the Anti-Slavery professions of Whigs hitherto were only meant as gulls for Abolition flats; but we should like to know how older papers like this betrayal of party secrets—open secrets though they may be.

Value of Salvation.—The *Puritan Recorder* in a late No. gives the following bit of intelligence to the elect, but whether it means to convey by its heading, that it is of most importance in the ecclesiastical or ministerial sense we are at a loss to determine. The sum of fifty should evidently be divided by the number of the donors to express exactly the nett value of the indulgence of a hope to each individual so blessed, but the gross sum of fifty dollars may be taken as a correct quotation of the running rate of percentage to the minister who is instrumental in creating the demand for such indulgencies. Revivals, it is often remarked, are sadly infrequent now-a-days, but the establishment of a fixed brokerage on salvation may be expected to create some stir among operators on souls in the spiritual market, if not among holders. Seriously, though we are not accustomed to set any great value on the sort of hope which the popular church holds forth to the people, are we such a nation of pedlars that nothing is of value that cannot be measured by its worth in dollars and cents? But hear the *Puritan*. Puritan indeed!

"Ecclesiastical and Ministerial.—We learn that the Rev. Dr. Higgins has closed his labors with the Church of the Pilgrims, and that forty-two persons now stand propounded for admission to this church. Dr. Higgins' labors, as we learn, have been very acceptable, and to all appearance greatly blessed. Those who have recently indulged hopes, and others, presented to Dr. H. gold and silver tokens of remembrance with suitable inscriptions, valued at about fifty dollars."

Our Columns have been so much occupied of late by Congressional speeches,—which if omitted the readers of the *Standard* would have good cause of complaint—that we have been compelled to exclude, for a season, the light which for a year past has been shed upon us from the Southern Press. The first page of this present number, however, will be found to be illuminated by this sort of splendor. Among the articles we have copied are two or three showing the estimation in which Mr. Webster's speech is held at the South, and which we have chosen among a great number speaking of it in equally laudatory terms, because they are a fair average, and testify also to the fact that they are only echoing the accepted opinion of their pro-slavery contemporaries

Our Acknowledgements are due to Hon. Wm. H. Seward of the Senate, and Messrs. Amos Tuck, Wm. Duer, and C. F. Cleveland of the House, for public documents.

To Correspondents.

M. F. His letter is forwarded to A. K. F. who will communicate with him respecting the Convention.

N. H. We have omitted the notice he sent us, as he will observe, because of a change in the plans of C. C. B. His first letter we handed to Mr. B. who has the matter in consideration.

E. G. Package at 21 Cornhill.

Communications.

A WORD FOR THE PRESENT HOUR.

BY MRS. CAROLINE W. HEALY DALL.

Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; but I say unto you, that whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause, shall be in danger of the judgment.

The agitation which has pervaded the public minds for the last four months, has hardly subsided. We have shared the intense suffering of a family deprived of its head by the foul act of murder; we have endured the suspense of another divested of the usual consolations of the afflicted, by the arrest of the supposed murderer. We have listened with them to the evidence against him, have shed tears over a verdict whose seeming justice we could not dispute, and bound by ties of affection to the near kindred of both parties, we have paused with aching hearts to ponder the great public lesson that it presents.

Great as has been the suffering inflicted by the murderer upon the family of his victim, how much is it exceeded by the agony of those who have borne him in their hearts as husband and father, and who would fain love him unto the end! The Majesty of our Law has been vindicated. We have shown that no scientific attainments, no high position, no circle of influential and upright friends can shield the transgressor from the penalty of his crime. Before the All-Wise and Infinite Father, the commission of the same crime, by individuals of varying development and opportunities of culture, does not necessarily involve the same degree of guilt, but in the eye of human law it must. The half idiotic fugitive slave suffers under the same sentence as the scientific professor, the hitherto unsuspected man of letters. Two things have especially struck us, as we have watched the impression produced upon men, by the close of this tragedy. First, that they have ordinarily spoken of this crime, as if it were an unusual outbreak in a character hitherto calm and unperverted;—and next the horror that they manifest when it is suggested that the life of the criminal, must atone for his savage deed. With regard to the first, there can be no deviation from the ordinary laws of human mind. "The mystery of godliness" is attained by slow and painful steps, and so is the 'mystery' of sin. By exceeding watchfulness, imprinting line upon line, and pressing example close on precept, does the mother form her child in the image of God. By a perverse wilfulness, rejecting one after another the monitions of conscience, trampling knowingly upon a God-given sense of right, indulging ourselves in forbidden fancies, dwelling on evil, and evil only,—nurturing our selfishness, till it crushes remorselessly the rights of men, woman and children beneath its iron heel, do we fashion *ourselves* into the image of Lucifer. He who is justly convicted by the law, must have been long since convicted by the voice of God in his own soul. Crime is no exception to the general laws of growth. When it seems so, it is the observer who is mistaken; not the law that is broken. These thoughts are not new; they are offered us on all sides by the pulpit and the press. They involve a truth, necessarily arrived at by all right-seeking persons. To us the human soul never loses its sacredness. When a man is convicted by the law of an offence like this, and refuses to defend himself, we still tremble to accuse him. Explanation of such a deed is impossible; the extreme folly of great wickedness is no less conspicuous than its enormity. A moral delinquency throws a mist before the keenest sight, and under the influence of a criminal act, the practised chemist bungles like an apprentice. Presuming the guilt of the individual in the case before us, what a lesson does God's Providence offer, with regard to the careless, the irresponsible use of money.—Plainly does He tell us, that no amount of intellectual power—of scientific attainments or devotion to letters, can save a man from the spiritual, no less than the conventional dishonors of his first wrong step. We would speak tenderly of those who have greatly sinned, as of those who are long dead, but we press this point in passing, because in the comments of the people, it has been signally overlooked, and we have argued from the indifference of the world with regard to it, a lower sense of integrity in the community, than our hopes and our pride have hitherto ascribed to them. He who was guilty in that one point, *became* guilty of all. And from this consideration, we pass readily to our second point, the popular horror of the penalty of crime.

"*To be hanged by the neck, till you are dead.*" How these words thrilled from the lips of the Judge to the ear of the criminal, none of us shall ever know. That those who caught their echo from without, were turned to stone for the instant, and filled with sympathizing horror for long after, we all understand. But was that wretched man more guilty after those terrible words were spoken, than before? And if more *miserable*, was not that the consequence of his own mistaken views of life and honor? Far be it from us, to shrink from the penalty, when we have not shrunk from the crime. Far be it from us to dream, that honor in this world, is comparable to salvation in the next. In the earliest struggles for American independence, men were hung as traitors, who contended for human rights. We are proud to trace our descent from such. It is not the hanging that attaints the felon's blood, in spite of American law, but the *wrong-doing*. It is crime, that sending the blood in impetuous gushes through our own veins drives it with unhealthy haste along those of our posterity, for hundreds of years to come, and if the whole material world is moved, and gazes to bear witness, when a deed of wrath is done, no less does the spiritual life of unborn ages suffer, and souls that have been or yet shall be born of ours, be robbed of a birthright, by our guilt. One trembles to think how his soul, stripped some day of its earthliness, shall see in every wreath of mist or drop of dew, in every spirit presence above or below, only the reproachful silent daguerrotype of his sin. Let us transfer our horror, from the disgrace of this world, to that dishonor of our own souls whose image shall be caught and reflected by all the pure surfaces of the present, and shall cloud to our children's eyes the bright mirrors of the future.

What is it then that we should dread, in connection with capital punishment? Emphatically we should dread to inflict it. Blood for blood, was the first savage cry of the law, and society thirsted to stone for the injury inflicted on the man, by avenging itself on another. Short sighted as its justice must necessarily be, to ible mistakes cumbered the records of its courts. Little by little the Divine nature became manifest to men. The love of God conquered in part this fierce desire of justice. The death penalty was restricted to fewer offences, and when it was inflicted society talked not of avenging the dead, but deterring the evil minded by its influence. Coward-like it muttered hurried words of its own safety. But the time has come in the world's progress, when the reform of the criminal forms the only true safety of society, and many of us long for the hour when the death penalty shall cease.

When men desire the extinction of any legal penalty, they inquire of those who oppose them, 'Whom does this institution benefit?'

With regard to Capital Punishment, such an inquiry can have reference to but three parties. To the criminal himself, the murdered man or his friends, and society at large.

Does Capital Punishment benefit the criminal? Certainly not. We do not even pretend that it does. We are afraid to run the risk of keeping him in custody until his reform is effected. Let us consider what it is we do. It often happens that men are born into the world with tendencies the nature of which they do not fully comprehend, and do not see the necessity of restraining until they have hurried them into the commission of some evil deed. Many are thus permitted to fall that they may rise again—rise stronger and better fitted for the duties of life. God has patience with such. The end of life is spiritual discipline, the attainment of something which is more than innocence—even holiness. Born with an intellectual nature that he is compelled to use, with passions that he cherishes, and a moral nature that he does not incline to develope, a man goes on sluggishly in an evil course, until it brings him to the brink of a precipice. He does not pause even there, for he is asleep, he goes over. Over! little matter for that since it has roused him. He is awake, but alas! he is a criminal. God gave him life for some fit purpose. Through this brother man, the Infinite One would uplift and strengthen him. At his own time he will release him from its heavy struggles; but we are unwilling to trust to that. Almost in defiance of the Divine Will, we send him into the Divine presence. To reform him we consider too difficult a task. Too difficult! but may be it is what God requires of us nevertheless.

The worst feature of the death penalty is its irremediableness. We take what we cannot give, and though the future prove our victim to be innocent of the alleged crime we can neither restore him to life, nor remove the stigma from his dishonored name.

Does it benefit the murdered man or his friends? No, we cannot plead that in our excuse. It is only the savage who contends that the victim rests more quietly in his grave when the blood of his murderer has watered it.

Does it benefit society? This is the only important question of the three, for it is the only one, it seems to us, with regard to which there can be any real difference of opinion. "Yes," will be the ready answer of some men. "Yes, it benefits society, for we make an example of the criminal, that deters others from treading in his steps. Besides it is the easiest method of disposing of one of its most dangerous members." It matters little whether it be *easy* or not, so that it be not the *right* method. The time will come, we hope, when it will be remembered that there is such a thing as moral idiocy, and when we shall send many men to hospitals, whom we now send to prison. For the present let us inquire whether Capital Punishment deters men from crime through its terrors. The man who would feel such terrors most would not be the outcast, the town-pauper, the man who steals perhaps to save himself from starving, and kills to hide the knowledge of his theft. No, such men are desperate and ready to run any risk If the terrors of the law check any man, it will be him who has something to lose, who has a reputation to hazard, a post in the scientific world to desert, a wide circle of friends to break through, a family ambitious and gifted to provide for—and have we not just seen that over such a man, these terrors have no restraining power! How much less must they not have over a man of a lower class.

It is not enough that as a restraint Capital Punishment be proved to be useless—the fact that is positively harmful, may easily be shown from the acknowledged effect of public executions. If an execution is a good thing, it should take place as publicly as possible: it should be ushered in by prayer—carried through with an obvious reference to the Most High, whose attribute and right the executioner assumes. Our best men should officiate as hangmen, and the crowd should stand appalled at the awful consummation. We all know what is the truth. Murder made legal is no more elevating in its effect than the murder called crime. Jibes and jeers, horrid mirth, and more horrid licentiousness have always characterized the crowds attendant on executions. One hanging is, without exaggeration, the parent of many. Let any one who doubts this read the recently published letter of Charles Dickens, written after his return from the executions of the Mannings. The scene which he describes is no unusual one. Writing from London, he says, "I believe there are few sources of pollution in this great city, wholly unknown

Mr. Benton said, the proposition of the Senator was neither more nor less than that the jury should be sent out, and the gentlemen remaining, be then allowed to argue the cause. As to the charge of obstructing the public business, he had only to say that, conscious of the integrity and rectitude of his position, he would never be deterred from the performance of his duty by such charges. His position was sustained by 60 years of unvarying legislation. The Father of his Country himself, three times sent his messages to Congress in relation to the admission of new States, under precisely similar circumstances with those under which President Taylor had sent his California message. Tennessee, Kentucky and Vermont came in precisely as California asks to come in. He was not to be scared off the track by the charge of delaying public business. He would never fail to resist, where he had the right to resist, a proposition which he believed to be wrong in principle.

Mr. Douglass submitted a few remarks in vindication of the California bill, from an allusion by Mr. Clay, to the effect that it would, in its present form, give the Federal Government no certainty of control over the public domain in California.

Mr. Foote made a point of order, that the Senator could not discuss the California bill at this time.

The Chair so ruled, and Mr. Douglass took his seat.

The question being taken on Mr. Benton's motion to lay on the table, it was negatived by yeas 24, nays 28, as follows:

Yeas—Baldwin, Benton, Bradbury, Chase, Clarke, Corwin, Davis of Mass., Dayton, Dodge of Iowa, Dodge of Wis. Douglass, Felch, Greene, Hale, Hamlin, Jones, Miller, Norris, Phelps, Seward, Shields, Smith, Walker, Webster.

Nays—Atchison, Badger, Bell, Borland, Bright, Butler, Cass, Clay, Clemens, Davis of Miss., Dickinson, Downs, Foote, Hunter, King, Mangum, Mason, Morton, Pearce, Rusk, Sebastian, Soule, Spruance, Sturgeon, Turner, Underwood, Whitcombe, Yulee.

On the question recurring on Mr. Clay's amendment, Mr. Douglass rose to resume his remarks, contending that as the amendment pending covered the whole subject, it was in order to discuss any branch of the general subject.

After debate upon the point of order, the Vice President ruled Mr. Douglass out of order.

Several additional questions of order were raised and discussed at considerable length.

Mr. Benton discussed Mr. Clay's amendment. No such proposition to tie up the hands of the Senate upon any subject, had ever before been made. It was a new method of applying the previous question—the gag which the Senate had never before submitted to. It might do very well in caucus, but was highly improper in the Senate. It was a resolve in advance, against going through the ordinary parliamentary form of legislation. He also submitted some further remark in opposition to the proposition for a Committee.

Mr. Clay, in reply, said there had been a no caucus on the subject, as intimated by Mr. Benton—the Senator had spoken of his rights—he must recollect that other Senator have rights, and were as ready to assert them, as the Senator from Missouri. The Senate had rights also, and the question was, whether they would decide to refer a subject with instructions or without. They had the right, and its exercise; it was proper to call "previous question," or anything else. He referred to the Committee appointed in the case of the admission of Missouri, stating that the Committee were left uninstructed altogether. Mr. Clay commented with some severity upon the course of those who insisted upon the admission of California, and are unwilling to give governments at the same time, to the territories. Whigs upon the floor of the Senate, anxious to bring in California, had expressed themselves in favor of leaving the hundred thousand population of New Mexico, to the protection of a military Government,—the establishment of which by the late administration, in a time of war, had been loudly condemned. In conclusion, he said, he had deliberately prepared his amendment with the view of settling the whole question at once, and keeping out of the endless proposition for instruction, which the ingenuity of the Senator from Missouri might invent. Let the amendment then be passed, and the Senate would then determine upon a question of order, whether it did not settle the matter.

Mr. Benton rejoined:—The Senator had said that the Senate would yet be compelled to adopt the previous question, for the purpose of cutting off unnecessary debate; he had only to say, that when the Senate should take that course, he would submit; but until then, he would never submit to the gag, disguisedly and surreptitiously attempted to be applied. He also declared his belief, that the committee was all cut and dried, and that the sending them out was altogether a farce.

Mr. Douglass said he was inclined to vote for Mr Clay's amendment, and for these reasons. He had only opposed the appointment of a select committee because of his unwillingness to make the admission of California dependent on any other measure. The Senate having now, three times by yeas and nays, declared its determination to have the committee, and the majority having a right to so determine, he would vote for the amendment, for the precise reason stated by Mr. Clay—to cut off all amendments, and get the whole question back from the committee as early as possible. He was the more convinced of the propriety of this course, by Mr. Benton's statement that the whole was "cut and dried." If the sending out of the committee was a farce, he was not disposed to make it a tragedy, by making a factious opposition to the declared and ascertained decision of the majority.

Mr. Webster expressed the opinion, that the amendment, if adopted, would not preclude the submittal of propositions for instruction.

Mr. Hale contended, that the expression that "the Senate does not deem it necessary to give instructions," &c., would not prevent the Senate from subsequently adopting instructions, as a precautionary measure. He proceeded at some length in opposition to the amendment, and to the proposed reference. He admitted, however, that the North were to be defeated in this contest, by the Northern votes. He only desired to beg the South not to say, after the question had been decided, that they had bought the North dog cheap. Slavery would triumph again as it always had, and always would, until the people of the North taught their children a system of geography, by which they would understand that there was a small piece of country north of Mason and Dixon's line. They were beginning to learn that lesson now, and would know more of it soon, and he dared to say also to those Northern men by whose action the North was to be defeated,—that when they returned home, after consummating the measure, they would find the climate rather hot for them. Under the circumstances, he, with the Senator from Illinois, would make no factious opposition. He would submit to anything which God, in his Providence, or the party in its power, should see fit to impose upon him, after making such resistance to fate as seemed proper. He concluded as follows:—Gentlemen of the South, you have us, but when you have laid us out cold, don't point at us! (Laughter.)

Mr. Clay said, that the North was destined to no defeat at the hands of the South. The only triumph to be achieved was a triumph of patriotism, of Union, of the best interests of mankind, over ultra Abolitionists, whose vocation would be gone, as soon as a settlement of this controversy should be obtained. (Great applause in the gallery.) As to the intimation of dissatisfaction at home, he hoped that no Northern man could be deterred from the course which he might desire to take, by any such allusions. They might rely on a state of things similar to that which followed the settlement of the Missouri question—a feeling of rejoicing throughout the whole country.

Mr. Foote appealed to the friends of the select committee to refrain from all further debate. (Cries of agreed, agreed.)

Mr. Clay modified his amendment at the suggestion of Mr. Mangum, by inserting after the word "necessary," the words "and therefore declines."

The question being taken, the amendment was adopted. Yeas 25, nays 22, as follows:—

Yeas—Atchinson, Badger, Borland, Butler, Cass, Clay, Clemmens, Davis, (Miss.) Dickinson, Dodge, (Iowa) Douglas, Downs, Foote, Hunter, Jones, King, Mangum, Mason, Morton, Pearce, Rusk, Sebastian, Soule, Spruance, Surgeon, Turney, Underwood, Yulee.

Nays—Baldwin, Benton, Bradbury, Bright, Chase, Clark, Corwin, Davis, (Mass.) Dayton, Dodge, (Wisconsin.) Felch, Greene, Hale, Hamlin, Miller, Morris, Phelps, Seward, Shields, Smith, Walker, Whitcombe.

Mr. Hamblin moved to amend, by inserting a provision excepting from the reference the question of the admission of California as a State. After debate, this admission was ruled out of order, as identical with one previously rejected by the Senate.

Mr. Benton then moved the amendments heretofore suggested by him, covering 14 different points, in each of which the connection of California with other subjects is objected to, and said he would ask a vote by yeas and nays on each.

Another debate ensued upon a question of order.

Mr. Clay objected to the amendment, on the ground that it was inconsistent with the proposition by which the Senate had declared that it would not intrust the Committee.

The Vice President decided that inconsistency might be a good reason for the rejection of the amendment, but was not a question for the chair to decide as a point of order.

Mr. Clay applied for this decision.

Mr. Benton addressed the Senate in support of his amendments. His object was, to show by votes of the Senate on the several points which he had presented, that the fears of the South had been groundless. That there was no danger to the rights of any section of the Union. He also alluded incidentally, in no complimentary terms, to the Southern address, and those who originated it.

Mr. Butler said, that the Senator from Missouri was much mistaken, if he supposed the Southern people would be satisfied with votes upon truisms. Such votes were not to be safety valves by which to advert the dangers impending.

Mr. Foote arose to addres the Senate. The Vice President reminded him that the question before the Senate was upon the appeal, and suggested that he confine himself to that point.

Mr. Foote declared his design to proceed in order. He had endeavored to avoid discussion, as the Senate would bear witness. He felt that the time had come, when patriots should unite for the purpose of saving the Republic from the dangers which threatened it.—It was very well known that he would not, after circumstances which had occurred here, condescend to notice anything coming from a certain quarter (Mr. Benton,) if it were not that an unjustifiable attack had been made upon a measure with which himself, and other gentlemen, were identified—the Southern address, which many of them had been proud to sign. The history of that address was a glorious one, and would live in the esteem of patriots in the future when those who impugned it should long have been forgotten. Who was its author? The Senator from South Carolina, over whose death the Nation now mourned. And who was it that attempted to impugn that address, and to designate those who signed it as agitators? It was an individual known as the oldest member of the Senate.

Mr. Foote was proceeding with some sarcastic and pungent remarks, evidently in allusion to Mr. Benton, but had said nothing sufficiently open and offensive to justify the Chair in calling him to order, when Mr. Benton rose much agitated, and throwing his chair from him, proceeded by the narrow passage outside of the Bar towards Foote's seat, which is on the outside tier of seats, near the main entrance to the Senate. Mr. Dodge of Iowa, Mr. Dodge of Wisconsin, and others, apprehending a collision between Benton and Foote, endeavored to detain the former at his seat. Overcoming all resistance, he continued towards Foote, who, leaving his place, stepped down the main aisle and took position in the area, just in front of the Sergeant-at-Arms' seat, at the right of the Vice President, drawing a pistol from his bosom and cocking it.

The scene which ensued is indiscribable. Loud calls for the Sergeant-at-Arms, were made, and cries of order resounded from all sides of the chamber. Many persons rushed from the galleries and out of the chamber in apprehension of a general melee. Several Senators surrounded Mr. Foote, among whom was Mr. Dickinson, who, securing the pistol, locked it up in his desk.

Mr. Benton, in the meantime, was struggling in the hands of his friends, who were endeavoring to prevent him from reaching Foote. While thus pinioned, as it were, and yet almost successfully resisting the efforts of those who held him, Mr. Benton bitterly denounced Foote as an assassin, who had dared to bring a pistol in the Senate to murder him. He said, "I have no arms, examine me, I carry nothing of the kind—stand out of his way, and let the scoundrel and assassin fire!" In uttering this sentence Mr. Benton threw off from either side those who held him, tore open his vest, and invited the fire of his antagonist

Mr Foote in the meantime was restrained from advancing towards Mr. Benton.

The Vice President after repeated and vigorous efforts, succeeded in restoring a comparative state of quiet.

Messrs. Benton and Foote having resumed their respective seats, Mr. Foote rose, and enquired if he should proceed in order.

Mr. Benton—in a very loud tone and much excited—I demand that the Senate shall take cognizance of the fact, that a pistol has been brought in here to assassinate me.

Mr. Foote explained—he had no intention to attack anybody, his whole course had been that of the defensive. He had been informed that an attack upon him had been intended, and supposing when the Senator from Missouri advanced towards him, that he was armed, and designed to attack him, he had himself advanced to the centre of the chamber in order to be in a position where he could meet Mr. Benton in the main aisle, upon equal terms.

Mr. Benton protested against any intimation that he carried arms. He never did so.

The Vice President requested Mr. Foote to take his seat, until he could be ascertained what course was proper for the Chair to pursue.

Mr. Hale regretted the necessity which seemed to impose itself upon him, one of the youngest members of the Senate, but if no one else moved in the premises he should deem himself unworthy of his seat, if he could let such a transaction as he had just witnessed go out to the country without investigation. The Senate owed such a course to itself.

Mr. Foote, in his seat—I court it.

Mr. Borland said he had appreheended no danger, and instead of the matter being a serious affair to be investigated, he thought it one of which the Senate should be ashamed, and should say as little about it as possible.

Mr. Foote expressed his assent to the proposition for investigation, but solemnly protested that he had only armed himself in view of a premeditated attack against which he had been warned.

Mr. Dodge (of Wis.) thought a committee of investigation ought to be appointed. He stated that he had known Mr. Benton 25 years, and never knew him to carry arms.

Mr. Benton—in his seat, still much agitated—Never, never.

Mr. Dodge moved that a committee of seven be appointed to investigate the subject. It was due to the Senate and the country.

Mr. Clay expressed the hope that Messrs. Benton and Foote would go before a magistrate, or else in the presence of the Senate, pledge themselves not to commit a breach of the peace, in the further prosecution of the affair.

Mr. Benton—I have done nothing to authorize a charge of intention to commit a breach of the peace, and I will rot in jail, before I give a promise by which I admit such a thing, even by implication. I carry no arms, sir, and it is lying, and cowardly, to insinuate anything of the kind against me.

Mr. Clay said his suggestion had no reference to the past, but to the future.

Mr. Foote said he was a Constitution-loving and law-abiding man. He only wore arms when he had reason to believe he was in danger of being attacked. He preferred another method of settling difficulties, and had always left the door open to avoid the necessity for any other mode of settlement than that referred to. He declared that he had no design of proceeding further in the immediate controversy which had occurred, but intimated that, as a man of honor, he felt bound to take proceedings elsewhere.

Mr. Benton greeted the last remark with a contemptuous laugh, loud enough to be heard throughout the chamber.

After some further debate, the motion to appoint a Committee was agreed to, and before any further action was had, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The House resumed voting for clerk. Young, 72; Walker, 47; Prindle, 30. 180 votes. No election.

Mr. Phœnix offered a resolution, that Walker be declared clerk.

The Speaker decided the resolution not in order.

The House again voted. Again no choice.

Mr. Jones asked the unanimous consent of the House to offer a resolution, the blank in it to be filled up with the name of a Democrat. If it fails, the Whigs to propose a name. All parties would then be obliged to vote for or against a particular individual.

The speaker said the resolution was objected to.

Mr. Jones—I expected it would be. (Laughter.) The roll was called.

Before the ninth vote was announced, there were many changes of votes from minor candidates to the two prominent ones. Much interest was excited, meanwhile, to know the result, as the contest was close.

THE ELECTION OF A CLERK.

The tellers reported the whole number of votes cast, 188.

Necessary to a choice 95. Young, (dem.) late Commissioner of the land office, 96.

Prindle, (whig) 5.

Walker, subordinate clerk of the House, 82.

E Stansbury, of Vermont, 4.

Clark, ex-clerk of the House, 1.

The Speaker declared Young elected by one vote, and said that until the Clerk elect was present to qualify, no business could be done.

The House then adjourned.

The vote for Young was a strict party vote. Messrs Wilmot, Julian and Holmes, were included among the democrats.

Messrs. Conger, Fowler, Sackett, Hebard and Dickey, voted for Prindle.

Mr. Wilson, for Clark.

Messrs. Allen, Durkee, Giddings and Root, for Stanbury.

SENATE. . . . Thursday, April 18.

The Committee of Investigation into the disorder of yesterday, was announced as follows:—Mr. Dodge of Wisconsin, Webster, King, Phelps, Rusk, Bell, and Shields. Mr. Dodge asked to be excused, because of the peculiar relations existing between him and Mr. Benton.

Mr. Foote said that as far as he was concerned, he would prefer the Senator as a member of the Committee to any man in America.

Mr. Dodge thanked Mr. Foote for this expression of kind feelings, but said it was a matter personal with himself, and that, from delicacy of feeling upon the subject, he must insist upon being excused. The vote being taken, he was excused.

Senators Shields and Rusk made similar requests which were refused.

After the transaction of the morning's business, Mr. Benton moved to postpone all prior orders for the purpose of taking up the bill for the admission of California as a State. After a discussion upon questions of order, the Vice President ruled that a mention to postpone could not be made until the subject proposed to be postponed had first been taken up. Mr. Benton then moved that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the California bill.

Mr. Clay moved to lay the motion on the table, which was agreed to. Yeas 27, nays 24, as follows:

Yeas—Messrs. Atchison, Badger, Bell, Borland, Bright, Butler, Cass, Clemens, Davis (of Miss.) Dickinson, Downs, Foote, Hunter, King, Mangum, Mason, Martin, Pierce, Rusk, Sebastian, Sewell, Sturgeon, Turney, Underwood, Whitcomb, and Yulee.

Nays—Messrs. Baldwin, Benton, Chase, Clark, Corwin, Davis (of Mass.), Dayton, Dodge (of Wis.), Dodge (of Iowa), Douglass, Felch, Green, Hale, Hamblin, Jones, Miller, Morris, Phelps, Seward, Shields, Spruance, Walker, and Webster.

The Senate then resumed the consideration of the unfinished business of yesterday.

Mr. Foote having the floor, said that in view of the exigencies of the case he would refrain from any further remarks, and simply ask the Senate to come to a speedy vote.

Mr. Mangum expressed the hope that the Senate would vote *seriatim* on all of Mr. Benton's propositions, and that the vote would be taken without any debate by the majority, or any attempt to restrict debate by the minority.

Mr. Clay expressed his hearty concurrence in what had just been said, and united in the hope that the majority would relieve itself from the responsibility of further protraction and delay.

The question was then stated upon Mr. Benton's amendment, instructing the committee not to connect California with any other measure.

Messrs. Butler and Borland said they should vote against the propositions, on the ground that they were palpable contradictions of what the Senate did yesterday. Other Senators also declared their reasons for votes, which they would give, so that the votes could not be considered a test.

The amendment was rejected. Yeas 25, nays 26.

The question was thus taken up by yeas and nays upon each of Benton's nine propositions.

The question was then taken upon the following amendment proposed by Mr. Benton, all of which were rejected.

Resolved, That nothing in the instructions shall be construed to authorize the said committee to take into consideration any thing that relates to either of the four following subjects.

1st. The Abolition of Slavery within the States.

2d. The suppression of the slave trade between the States.

3d. The Abolition of Slavery within the Forts or Arsenals, Dock Yards, and Navy grounds of the United States.

4th. The Abolition of Slavery in the District of Columbia.

And Provided further, That said Committee shall not take into consideration any questions relating to the subject of Domestic Slavery in the United States which shall not be speedily referred to it by order of the Senate.

The question was then taken upon a proposition by Mr. Hamblin, excepting the admission of California from the reference, which was rejected by yeas 20, nays 25.

Mr. Walker moved to amend the original motion of reference by excepting therefrom the subject of the arrest of fugitive slaves, which was rejected, yeas 17, nays 20.

Mr. Hale moved to amend by adding a provision, referring to the committee all the petitions and remonstrances sent to the Senate this session, relating to the subjects referred to the select committee.

Mr. Clay hoped the reference would be made. He thought the committee, after reading one or two of them, would be satisfied.

Mr. King opposed the reference of these petitions from miserable fanatics. It was insulting to propose it.

Mr. Hale in the course of some remarks in reply, said that the Senator from Alabama considered it respectful to refer to the cogitations of the Senate, but where it was proposed to refer the thoughts of the people—of the sovereigns—he called it insulting.

Mr. Clemens said he had received a petition from New York, which he should present to-morrow, suggesting the necessity for the establishment of a lunatic asylum for the abolition members, and referring to the case of an individual Senator, asking that his head be shaved forthwith, and that he be put on cold water diet. (Laughter.)

After debate, the chair ruled Mr. Hale's amendment out of order, upon the ground that the propositions to be referred were not under consideration.

The final question being then taken upon the motion to refer Clay's and Bell's resolutions to a select committee of 13 without instructions, it was *adopted*, yeas 30, nays 22, as follows:

Yeas—Atchison, Badger, Bell, Borland, Bright, Butler, Cass, Clay, Clemens, Davis, (of Miss.), Dickinson, Dodge, (of Iowa.) Downs, Foote, Hunter, Jones, King, Mangum, Mason, Morton, Pearce, Rusk, Sebastian, Soule, Spruance, Sturgeon, Turner, Underwood, Whitcomb, Yulee.

Nays—Baldwin, Benton, Bradbury, Chase, Clarke, Cowan, Davis, (of Mass.), Dayton, Dodge, (of Wis.), Douglass, Felch, Greene, Hale, Hamblin, Miller, Morris, Phelps, Seward, Shields, Smith, Walker, Webster.

On motion by Mr. Mangum, it was ordered that the Senate ballot first for the Chairman of the Committee. On motion of Mr. Davis, (Miss.), the balloting was postponed until to-morrow.

Mr. Hale then moved that all the petitions and remonstrances laying on the table relating to the subjects just referred to the select committee, be referred to said committee.

Mr. Clay moved an adjournment, but withdrew the motion for Mr. Douglas, who expressed the hope that the Senate would now, in accordance with the pledge given yesterday by Mr. Clay, take the California bill, and make it the special order for to-morrow.

Messrs. Butler and Mangum insisted upon an adjournment, and the Senate adjourned.

SENATE....Washington, Monday, April 22.

After the presentation of petitions and transaction of morning business, Mr. Benton moved to take up his motion instructing the select Committee, on Mr. Clay's and Mr. Bell's resolutions, to report separately upon each subject involved, and not to unite in one bill two or more incongruous subjects

Mr. Clay objected to the consideration of the motion, in the absence of the Committee of six, who left the city this morning with the remains of Mr. Calhoun, and who went away under the impression that the Senate would act upon no important business during their absence upon a duty imposed upon them by the Senate. The majority has already determined by a decisive vote, not to give the Committee any instructions, general or special; but in the absence of so many Senators, whose places were vacant this morning, the actual majority of the body was not now represented.

Mr. Benton asked no vote, but simply desired the motion to come up for discussion now.

Mr. Clay suggested that the appropriate time to argue the question of uniting two or more subjects in one bill, would arrive after the Committee had made a report joining two or more incongruous subjects. If, however, the Senator desired no vote at present, but simply to make a speech, he had no objection.

The Senate then proceeded to consider the motion. Mr. Benton read several extracts from English works on Parliamentary law, to show that the course taken, on referring the California bill to the Select Committee, and the uniting by said Committee of two or more incongruous subjects in the act, if it should be done, is in violation of all correct Parliamentary practice. Having got through with his citation, Mr. Benton proceeded with some remarks upon the general subject. He said the reference of California to a Committee known to be against her was a violation of that great principle of Parliamentary law which refers all subjects to a Committee supposed to be in favor. He defended the course which he had taken in the Senate in opposition to the action on the bill, in the referring to the Select Committee of so many subjects; it was his duty to do so, and all the epithets and animadversions which had been leveled against him on that score were intended for him. He referred to the remark made by Mr. Borland last week, which alluded to his (Mr. Benton's) course, designating it as a sort of expedient for consuming the time of the Senate; a sort of Legislative trifling. He had no desire to reply to this insinuation. The Senator from Arkansas and himself had not been on speaking terms for some time, and if that Senator were a Judge, and he (Mr. Benton) before him on trial for his life, he would ask a change of venue. Injury to California, and injury only, could result from the base attempt to violate the Parliamentary law. It had already injured her to an extent only appreciated by those who understood her real condition. When a bill, uniting California with other subjects, should be brought into the Senate, then and then only, would the war begin. Never for one would he submit to so flagrant a violation of all law and right. What had been the excuse for this attempted violation? The Nashville Convention threatens a dissolution of the Union of the States! He had already alluded to that Convention as a proceeding which had passed by,—a something which had spent its hour upon the stage, and made its exit.

Mr. Borland said that if the Senator from Missouri were on trial before him, his life would be perfectly safe in his hands. He was opposed to capital punishment, no matter what the crime of the culprit, and if called upon to pass sentence of death upon the Senator, would prefer resigning to executing the duty. The Senator's life, therefore, would be safe, no matter whether tried for conduct here or elsewhere.

The Chair here called the Senator to order, and continued warmly to resist any approach towards a violation of the rules of decorum or any attempt at personalities

Mr. Borland resumed in order, expressing his readiness to repeat the sentiment which the Senator had objected to, and declared himself entirely indifferent to his praise or censure.

Mr. Benton replied, that if the Senator repeated the expression alluded to, he would, in the first place, commit a breach of the rules which forbid personal reflections—and would say a thing in itself untrue. (Loud cries of order, amid which Mr. Benton took his seat.

Mr. Clay said he had no present intention of replying to the parliamentary argument of the Senator from Missouri, but he must say he felt somewhat in the situation of an eminent lawyer, after having, by accident, seen the notes of his opponent, and commented upon them to establish his own side of the question, the consequence was, that his antagonist was so astonished to find his own weapons turned against him that he was unable to recover himself, and the case was decided against him. He did not know as he should be as much dismayed as this legal gentleman, but really, if he had been looking for authorities to disprove the positions taken by Mr. Benton, he should have selected the same which had just been cited in their hearing. He held himself prepared to show, at the proper time, that we are not bound by English parliamentary law in all cases, admitting that it had been properly presented by the Senator. He was prepared to show that we have our own parliamentary laws, and the uniting of even incongruous subjects was a matter of high discretion—a question of policy to be decided upon by this body.

Mr. Cass said he thought it quite probable that the Select Committee would report no bill at all. Instead of reporting specific bills, they would probably report in favor of bills already before the Senate. The Senator, therefore, in his argument, pre-supposed a case which, probably, would never arise.

Mr. Benton's motion was then laid on the table.

The Senate bill providing for making treaties with the Indians in Oregon, and extinguishing the Indian title to lands west of the Cascade Mountains, was taken up and passed.

The Senate then, after an Executive Session adjourned.

(Omitted last week.)

We cannot copy all that we would of the debates in Congress during the past week, but select the following, reported for the *Tribune*, as altogether the most remarkable probably that ever occured in a legislative assembly. Who shall say after this that any representation of the devilish character of Slavery is an exaggeration?

Mr. Clemens—There is not a man in the South owning a hundred negroes who knows scarcely any more of the names of the slave children than I do. He would be obliged to send the census-taker to the negro quarters himself, to ascertain the information.

Mr. Underwood—If the slave owner cannot give the name of the children, how is he to give the age?

Mr. Clemens—He knows how many children there are, and can tell about the time they were born. Say that he has a negro woman of the name of Eliza with four children—he can state about the time each were born. As to their names, he would not know anything about that until the children had reached the age of 12 or 14.

Mr Underwood—I cannot speak for the large negro owners in the South, but I can of that description of people and the negroes in my own State. And I venture to say, that there is no plantation in my quarter, although the slaves are nothing like as numerous as they are in the South, but what the owner can tell you the name of every person on the plantation, and that without hesitation. We generally keep a record of their names and ages.

Mr. King—I see by the schedule that the Census Board is required to obtain information as to the places of birth of slaves. Now there is no Southern gentlemen here who does not know that it is wholly impracticable to obtain information of this description that will be at all satisfactory or reliable. The proposition which I now make is to amend schedule number two, by striking out the words "places of birth" It is well known that, owing to the natural course of things, *a great number of slaves are taken from one State to another, and the purchasers of such slaves know nothing about their places of birth*, and consequently it is utterly out of their power to give such information, and if it could be given it would be perfectly valueless. *They are known to have been born within the slave States, but in which of them is not known. There may be a few who can tell, but the large majority of them cannot by any possibility say where they were born*, nor give such information as will lead to any beneficial result.

The question being put on the motion to strike out the words "places of birth," it was agreed to.

Mr. King—In schedule two are the following words:—"*If a female, the number of children she has had, known to be alive, known to be dead.*" Now, sir, it is impossible to ascertain the number of children upon a plantation that any woman has had. *The woman herself, in nine out of ten cases, when she has had ten or fifteen children, does not know how many she has actually had*—(a laugh). *No, sir, she cannot tell.* The owner certainly does not know; the manager of the estate does not know, because the managers are frequently changed. One or two children may be born while an individual is manager of an estate, and others may be born after his place is supplied by another. There is no mode by which you can ascertain except through the medium of the woman and she cannot tell.

Mr Davis—It is very desirable, inasmuch as population is the basis for representation to rest upon, that the enumeration should include this particular kind of information.—There must be an enumeration as nearly accurate as can be made.

Mr. Underwood—In these tables we require not only the age and sex, but the color of the person, and we find in another column the degree of removal from pure blood is required to be stated; and this inquiry, in reference to the number of children which each woman may have had, I can inform my honorable friend, was inserted, as far as I know, at the instance of a Southern gentleman, with a view to ascertain certain facts which I do not think necessary to go into here. Now, the question is, are you willing to take all this information, with a view to ascertain the laws of longevity between the two races—the degrees of blood, and other physical laws of the races. And the tables have been constructed in reference to age, to degrees of the blood, to the number of children, and other tables developing the subject of comparative longevity.

Mr. Borland—I think that all the remarks of the Senator from Kentucky go to show the propriety of the proposition that was suggested some time ago, to strike out everything but the mere enumeration of the inhabitants.

Mr. Seward—I hope the motion to strike out will not prevail. It appears to me that the information sought to be obtained by this clause is essential. It is interesting to us all, as a question of political science, to know the actual condition of every class of population in this country; and certainly it concerns the public, as well as the Government, to know the actual *relative* condition of the different classes of population. The Committee desire to procure information in regard to the comparative longevity of the white and black races in their various conditions. They desire to ascertain the number of children that each woman has borne, the number that are living, and the number that are dead, with reference to the question of comparative longevity.

But there is another point. There is no woman, with great deference to the Senator from Alabama, who can have forgotten the number of children that she has borne. If it be true, as it is said, that there are women who do not know whether their children be living or dead, and even how many they have borne, *I should like to ascertain the number of such that there are of all races.* And I desire this information because we have all cherished a hope that the condition of African servitude in this country was a stage of transition from a state of barbarism to a state of improvement hereafter. I wish to know how rapid that progress is. I believe it cannot be possible that there are any women, even in Africa, who have forgotten the number of children they have borne. If there be any in America who have forgotten that fact, so important and interesting to themselves, I wish to know it, for the purpose of ascertaining the operation of our social system, and the success of that system as leading to the improvement of the African race. I wish to know, also, what is the extent of the education or of instruction that prevails, so as to ascertain whether they are advancing towards that better condition which constitutes the only excuse, as I understand, that we have for holding them in servitude.

Mr. King.—I am not at all surprised to hear the Senator from New York attempt to throw an imputation upon the South to answer his own purposes. Sir, what I stated was, that in many instances you could not even get from the mother any correct knowledge of the number of children she had. Go into the white settlements in many portions of the country and you will find women in the same situation. Does the Senator mean to say that all the women of his own State are so highly intellectual, so bright in their perceptions, so acute in their understanding, that they could give similar information if it were required of them?

Sir, I have listened to the Senator's remarks. He comes forward here on all occasions when the slightest opportunity is afforded to him, to endeavor to produce a feeling of prejudice against that section of country in which I live, in order to minister to that miserable fanatical spirit.

The Vice-President.—The honorable Senator is out of order.

Mr. King.—Well, sir, let the Senator not attempt, by a sneering manner and insidious language, to produce an effect which he dare not do directly. I would like to be informed, whether all within the State of New York are so intelligent, so well informed, and have lived in such a way as to justify the belief that upon application to them to know the number of their children, the information could be obtained? Go into New York city, or into any portion of the State, and you will find persons of that description.

Mr. Seward.—In reply to the question which the honorable Senator asks me in regard to the women of New York, I have to say that they are able to read the question, and that they will read it, and he will not find one white or black, in the State of New York, that has forgotten the number of her children That is my judgment For the rest, I repeat that I think the information important for social, political and benevolent purposes, and I am sincere in desiring that it may be obtained.

Mr. Rusk—Sir, the information sought to be obtained is of no earthly use. When it is obtained, it amounts to nothing. It may be used for the purposes of agitation; it may be used in stump oratory, to awaken prejudices in one section of the country against the other, but it is of no practical value. Indeed, you can obtain no correct information on the subject. It is of a piece with the proceeding yesterday, when a petition, numerously signed was presented, asking Congress to enrol the slaves in the militia of the country. Now, is not this irritating? What is it supposed will be the consequence of enrolling them in the militia, and putting arms into their hands, and that too when prayer is put up by men in authority here that civil war, servile war shall come, rather than that Slavery shall be extended into any other Territory.

I will put one question to the gentleman (Mr. Seward) and, if he will answer it, I think he will refute himself: Would he be willing to insert in the census bill a proposition that in New York, one of these inquisitorial census-takers should be authorized to go into the houses and ask every woman how many children she had had, and ask other questions which may very well be conjectured, but which my regard for decency and other considerations, induce me to forbear mentioning? Would he, when he chooses to institute this inquisition, so far as regards the black population, go to a mother and ask questions which would be regarded as indelicate if put to any white woman? I ask, is he willing to have the census-taker go round in his own State and ask every woman how many children she has had? And, sir, a gentleman who regards all colors alike ought not to make the distinction. Why, he is perfectly indifferent to color. He has as high appreciation of a black woman as he has a white; he cannot object, then, to put upon the same level white and black, so far as inquiry is concerned.

Mr. Seward—As the Senator puts a question to me, I will answer it. I have not the least objection in the world to have every woman in America asked how many children she has borne.

Mr. Underwood—This is not my scheme. It was the plan of a Southern gentleman; who beleived that a certain class of colored people had fewer children than a certain other class; and he beleived that the average duration of the lives of the children of the darker class was longer than that of the children of the lighter colored class or the mixed. And it was for the purpose of ascertaining the physiological fact that he wanted the inquiry made.

Mr. Rusk—If you would collect information upon matters of this kind, you should form a commission of old women or physicians, and send them out to make investigations.

Mr. Dayton—The Senator from Alabama says, that, from his own observation, the black race is, in his judgment, longer lived and more prolific than the intermediate classes between the black and white race; and that, as the blacks approximate to the whites, and reach to an almost imperceptible shade, longevity is much diminished, and the power of procreation equally so, if in a certain stage it is not entirely gone; that, in a word, the mulatto in a certain degree is a *hybrid!*

I am informed, too, that the pure black has in the South an admitted greater value than the mulatto; that he consumes more, and can do more; that the power of endurance of plantation labor diminishes in proportion to the admixture of white blood; that the mulatto has, in a word, neither the better properties of the white man nor the negro.

These become important physiological facts, if they are facts. Prof Agassiz. I beleive, and others, have even held them and the whites as of an originally different race. I do not mean to indicate any concurrence in such opinion, but am willing to institute any proper inquiry.

Mr. Butler—If it is our purpose to publish documents to accommodate the tastes and views of speculative philosophers, I do not see why we should not inquire who has most sense, a black man or a mulatto. I understand that the individual now at the head of the Republic of Liberia is a mulatto, and I beleive there is no instance of the mulatto coming in contact with the black in which he does not assume the superiority.

Mr. Underwood—As the table was reported by the Committee, it gave you the name of the female, her color, the number of her children, her age, and everything about her; but you have mutilated it so by your amendments that a change may now be necessary.

Mr. Yulee—The name would not have given us the color, whether she was black, ash-color or mulatto.

Mr. Underwood—There was a column for color The motion to strike out was then put and carried.

General Intelligence.

Mr. Chase of Ohio, heads his speech just published with the motto—"Union and Freedom, *without Compromise.*"

——A table is published stating the number of persons killed on the Massachusetts railroads last year at sixty-four, injured one hundred and two.

——It is said that the Zinc Mines which have recently been discovered in Sussex County, New Jersey, are among the most valuable in the world.

——Rev. John Marsh, Secretary of the American Union, was knocked down, a few days since, by some ruffian and severely injured.

——The publishers of the *Charleston Mercury* have issued an edition of "John C. Calhoun's last speech" on satin, arranged for framing at $2 plain, and $5 in gold.

——Miss Webster has published a card, in which she says that the letter which has recently appeared over her name, was not written with the least expectation that it would be laid before the public.

——A Sensible Man.—A distinguished gentleman in the State of New Jersey being asked to sign a petition for the pardon of Professor Webster, said that he had so much business of his own to attend to that he had no time to attend to that of the Governor of Massachusetts.—*Newark Daily Advertiser.*

Not so sensible as selfish. First, it is not true that it is the business of the Governor of Massachusetts to "sign a petition for the pardon of Professor Webster," but to consider such a petition after it has been signed by others; and secondly, it shows no great moral elevation in this distinguished gentleman of the State of New Jersey to attend to his own business rather than do an act of common humanity. If he conscientiously disapproved of the act he was asked to, he should have declined; but in his attempt to say a smart thing, he has only uttered a selfish one.—*Post.*

——The Hungarians.—Ladislaus Ujhazy, late governor of Comorn, with his lady, two daughters, and three sons, Major Baranyi, Capt. Gakais, Capt. Remenyi, and Capt. Gonsaulz, left New York on the 13th inst., for Iowa, to select land for their settlement, and for such of their brave compatriots as may join them.

——Executions in Massachusetts.—The number of executions in this Commonwealth, during the past 20 years, under sentence passed by the Supreme Judicial Court, is 8.

——It is said that some liberal people of Boston have made up a subscription for the destitute family of Dr. Webster, which has already reached $20,000, and the widow of Dr. Parkman heads the list with five hundred dollars.

——The new Mayor of Pittsburgh having had a drunken man before him who had been picked up out of the ditch, before a rum tavern, dismissed the prisoner, but fined the tavern keeper five dollars.

——Slaves for California.—The St. Charles (Mo.) *Chronotype* publishes the names of a company of California emigrants who leave that town to go by the overland route, who take slaves with them.

——The *Newark Mercury* says that the Hon. Theodore Frelinghuysen has been elected President of Rutger's College at New Brunswick.

——A law passed by the last Legislature of Wisconsin makes retailers of spirituous liquors responsible for the effects of their trade on customers. Damages have been gained in one case by a wife, for the loss she sustained by the drunkenness of her husband.

——Disappearance.—Mr. Edward Moore, of Newport, Rhode Island, a highly respectable gentleman, left the Astor House of this city on Tuesday afternoon, the 9th inst., between one and two o'clock, intending to go to Orange, New Jersey, by the four o'clock train of that afternoon, but has not since been heard of.

——The Homestad Exemption.—The bill for the exemption of the Homestead of the citizens of this State, from execution and forced sale, which had already passed the assembly by a large vote, was carried in the Senate on Tuesday, by a vote of 27 to 3, and was signed on Wednesday by the Governor. It is therefore a law. The amount exempted by it from seizure is one thousand dollars, and it does not take effect until January 1851. The second section, however, seems objectionable; it is as follows:

"§ 2. To entit

Poetry.

ABRAHAM AND THE FIRE-WORSHIPPER:

A DRAMATIC PARABLE.

SCENE—*The inside of a Tent in which the Patriarch* ABRAHAM *and a* PERSIAN TRAVELLER, *a Fire-Worshipper, are sitting awhile after supper.*

Fire-Worshipper (*aside*). What have I said, or done, that by degrees
Mine host hath changed his gracious countenance,
Until he stareth on me, as in wrath!
Have I, 'twixt wake and sleep, lost his wise lore?
Or sit I thus too long, and he himself
Would fain be sleeping? I will speak to that.
(*Aloud*). Impute it, O my great and gracious lord,
Unto my feeble flesh, and not my folly,
If mine old eyelids droop against their will,
And I become as one that hath no sense
Ev'n to the milk and honey of thy words.—
With my lord's leave, and his good servant's help,
My limbs would creep to bed.

Abraham (*angrily quitting his seat*). In this tent, never.
Thou art a thankless and impious man.

Fire-W. (*rising in astonishment*). A thankless and an impious man! O, sir,
My thanks have all but worshipp'd thee.

Abraham. And whom
Forgotten? like the fawning dog I feed,
From the foot-washing to the meal, and now
To this thy cramm'd and dog-like wish for bed,
I've noted thee; and never hast thou breath'd
One syllable of prayer, or praise, or thanks,
To the great God who made and feedeth all.

Fire W. Oh, sir, the God I worship is the Fire,
The god of gods; and seeing him not here,
In any symbol, or on any shrine,
I waited till he blessed mine eyes at morn,
Sitting in heaven.

Abraham. Oh, foul idolator!
And darest thou still to breathe in Abraham's tent?
Forth with thee, wretch: for he that made thy god,
And all thy tribe, and all the host of heaven,
The invisible and only dreadful God,
Will speak to thee this night, out in the storm,
And try thee in thy foolish god, the Fire,
Which, with his fingers, he makes lightning of.
Hark to the rising of his robes, the winds,
And get thee forth, and wait him.

[*A violent storm is heard rising.*

Fire-W. What; unhoused!
And on a night like this! me, poor old man,
A hundred years of age?

Abraham. (*urging him away*). Not reverencing
The God of ages, thou revoltest reverence.

Fire-W. Thou hadst a father;—think of his gray hair,
Houseless, and cuff'd by such a storm as this.

Abraham. God is thy father, and thou own'st not him.

Fire W. I have a wife, as aged as myself,
And if she learn my death, she'll not survive it,
No, not a day; she is so used to me;
So propp'd up by her other feeble self.
I pray thee, strike us not both down.

Abraham (*still urging him.*) God made
Husband and wife, and must be own'd of them,
Else he must needs disown them.

Fire-W. We have children,
One of them, sir, a daughter, who next week,
Will all day long be going in and out,
Upon the watch for me; she too, a wife,
And will be soon a mother. Spare, oh spare her!
She's a good creature, and not strong.

Abraham. Mine ears
Are deaf to all things but thy blasphemy,
And to the coming of the Lord and God,
Who will this night condemn them.

[ABRAHAM *pushes him out; and remains alone speaking.*

For if ever
God came at night-time forth upon the world,
'Tis now this instant. Hark to the huge winds,
The cataracts of hail, and rocky thunder,
Splitting like quarries of the stony clouds,
Beneath the touching of the foot of God.
That was God's speaking in the heavens,—that last
And inward utterance coming by itself.
What is it shaketh thus thy servant, Lord,
Making him fear, that in some loud rebuke
To this idolator, whom thou abhorrest,
Terror will slay himself? Lo, the earth quakes
Beneath my feet, and God is surely here.

[*A dead silence; and then a still small voice.*

The Voice. Abraham!

Abraham. Where art thou, Lord? and who is it that speaks
So sweetly in mine ears, to bid me turn
And dare to face thy presence?

The Voice. Who but He
Whose mightiest utterance thou hast yet to learn?
I was not in the whirlwind, Abraham;
I was not in the thunder, or the earthquake;
But I am in the still small voice.
Where is the stranger whom thou tookest in?

Abraham. Lord, he denied thee, and I drove him forth.

The Voice. Then didst thou do what God himself forbore.
Have I, although he did deny me, borne
With his injuriousness these hundred years,
And couldst thou not endure him one sole night,
And such a night as this?

Abraham. Lord! I have sinn'd,
And will go forth, and if he be not dead,
Will call him back, and tell him of thy mercies
Both to himself, and me.

The Voice. Behold and learn!

[*The Voice retires while it is speaking; and a fold of the tent is turned back, disclosing the Fire-Worshipper, who is calmly sleeping, with his head on the back of a house-lamb.*

Abraham. O loving God! the lamb itself his pillow,
And on his forehead is a balmy dew,
And in his sleep he smileth. I, meantime,
Poor and proud fool, with my prerumptuous hands,
Not God's was dealing judgment on his head.
Which God himself had cradled!—O, methinks
There's more in this than prophet yet hath known,
And Faith, some day, will all in Love be shown.

GRATITUDE.

THANK God for *memory!* This is the green dell;
I hear the rill with music' ripples flowing;
The scents of flowers recall my childhood well;
I feel the sun of new-born summer glowing,
And, in my spirit's view, I see the stream,
And the bright fish that through the waters gleam.

Thank God for *music!*—for the pleasant voices
Of boughs and winds and waters as they meet;
For every bird that in the wood rejoices;
For every note in nature's concert sweet;
To me the lark's clear carrolling on high
Reveals the whole wide, blue, bright summer's sky.

Thank God for *hope!* that after life's short night,
Cheered by fair dreams and memories, I shall rise
To fields with never-failing verdure bright;
Unfailing fountains; pure unclouded skies;
And see the world which will not pass away,
In the full sunshine of perpetual day!

—*J. Y. Akerman.*

TYRANTS o'er brutes with ease extend their plan,
Then rise in cruelty from beast to man;
Their sordid policy each crime allows,
The flesh that quivers, and the blood that flows,
The furious stripes that murder in a day,
Or tot'ring arts that kill by dire delay;
The fainting spirit and the bursting vein,
All, all, are reconciled to Christian gain.

—*S. J. Pratt.*

Miscellany.

THE GENEROUS PLANTER.

THE incident which is embodied in this true story occurred in Cincinnati some years since, and was then published, but so long a time has passed that few will remember it. I am very sure none of my young readers will.

There is in Cincinnati a large class of freed colored persons who, having been emancipated in the South and Southwest, have come up there to settle, and very many of them with the sole object in view of making enough money by their labor to redeem some near relation from bondage. We have known of remarkable instances of self-denial and patient labor that have finally been crowned with success, but we cannot recall one of which we have heard, that is so full of romantic interest as the one we are about to relate. Amongst the freed colored persons who were laboring to purchase the freedom of their enslaved friends, there was none so untiring in efforts as Susan Wilson, the heroine of this little story. She was up early and late: and although her occupation was a very laborious one and not very profitable, yet by unceasing toil and the most rigid self-denial, she managed to lay by a considerable sum of money towards the purchase of her husband, who was still in Slavery. Susan had been set free by will at the death of her mistress, whose favorite personal attendant she had been. The lady had owned but few slaves, and they were all in her own employ, so that they had always been comparatively comfortable. She had left Susan with her children free, but without making any provision for their support—thus showing that she thought the boon of freedom, even in a state of destitution, a sufficient restitution for years of unpaid labor which she had exacted from her slaves. Whatever Susan thought of the justice of her mistress, she was not slow to avail herself of her freedom; and after long and anxious consultation with her husband, it was agreed that she should make her way to a free State with her three small children, and by her labor endeavor to get money enough to buy him.

Ben, her husband, was an excellent carpenter, and lived with his master, very near Susan's mistress. He was an intelligent slave, and had always cherished the hope that he should one day be free. There did not seem a very bright prospect of this, when he saw his poor wife with her three little children set out upon their journey to a land of freedom. His heart almost failed him, but still he said to himself, "They must go. If they cannot do anything for me, they will do far better for themselves in a free State than they can possibly here, where they will not be thought even as good as slaves." And so they parted. She came to Cincinnati, and had been there about two years, laboring as a washerwoman, when my story commences. Her oldest child, Harry, was a fine stout boy of eleven years; Susan, the next, was a delicate, sickly child of nine; and the youngest was a little boy of five. They were none of them old enough to be of much assistance to their mother; yet so great was their interest in the object for which she was laboring, that all were willing and anxious to contribute something toward their father's freedom. Harry could do most. He was, in fact, very useful—bringing and carrying the clothes, fetching water, making fires, and everything of the kind that he could do. Then there was a large boarding-house in the neighborhood where Susan not only got washing from the boarders, but almost enough broken victuals for the support of her family—thus saving both money and time.

So great were her exertions that a number of charitable ladies kindly undertook, not only to supply the children with clothes, but made them up for them. Thus the poor woman's earnings were almost all hoarded up for the purchase of her husband.

The children too were as self-denying as their mother. If any kind lady or gentleman gave them a small piece of money for a little service, instead of buying candy and cakes, as most children do, it was brought home and put in a mug where their earnings were kept. Harry, during the season of blackberries, was able to earn a good deal of money. His berries were always fresh and nice-looking, and he had as many customers as he could supply. It would be impossible to tell all the little acts of self-denial by which these poor children strove to aid in the purchase of their father. To show how they all felt about it, we must relate one little incident.

One day, a lady, who was pleased with the frank, good-natured face of Ned, the youngest boy, called him in and gave him half an orange. This was so nice that it created a desire for more. A few days afterwards he had a small piece of money given him, and instead of taking it home to put in the mug, he bought two oranges with it. He no sooner had them in his possession, than he began to feel he had done something that his mother and brother and sister would not think very well of. So, instead of running home delighted to show them, he came in softly, and going straight up to his mother, said, "Good gentleman gave me money; I gave it to man in shop; he give me two orange." His mother looked sorrowfully at him, and told him she was sorry he had forgotten his poor father was a slave. And the other children said, "Oh! shame, Ned! to buy oranges with the money for daddy's freedom!" They would not touch a bit of them; and poor little Ned, with tears in his eyes, sat down in the corner and ate up the oranges by himself, and he was very glad when the last mouthful was gone. He said to his mother that he would never buy any more oranges, but bring the money home for his father.

One day, Harry had been gone to the boarding-house longer than usual for the fragments for their dinner. Presently they saw him coming with a large bundle of clothes, as many as he could carry; and he came panting in, full of some important information.

"Oh, mother!" he cried, "there are so many strangers at Mrs. G.'s, and you'll get all the washing for them, for a good gentleman who sent you these says he will ask them. And he was so kind to me, and I told him all about how you were working for father's freedom, and put all your money in a box, and how we put all we could save in a little mug; and he gave me a whole quarter to put in, and he is coming here, and I am going to show him it's the largest piece we have got yet."

Thus he ran on to his mother, full of his good news, and none of them observed that a gentleman had followed him home, and was now standing near the door, in a very thoughtful mood.

Susan was the first to observe him, and how her heart sunk within her when she discovered the well-known face of her husband's master! He did not know her, and was surprised at her agitation. She sank down to the floor, and was not able to speak. She had not heard one word from her husband since she had left him; and in those two years what might not have happened? The cholera had been very fatal in the South, and he might be dead!

"Ah master!" at last she cried, "my poor husband. Ben, is he alive?"

"Ben? what Ben? I don't know who your husband is."

"Oh, master! Ben Wilson, your carpenter."

The gentleman was very much agitated, for he had not expected to find his carpenter's wife and children here. But he hastened to relieve the poor woman's anxiety.

"What!" said he, "is my carpenter, Ben, your husband? Oh, yes; he's alive and well and as honest a fellow and faithful as he ever was."

"Thank God!" said the poor woman; "if he's alive I know he's good."

The slaveholder sat down on the only chair the house afforded, and the poor creatures crowded about him, beseeching him in the most piteous manner to sell the husband and father to them.

"Oh! master, see," said Susan, "I have got almost all the money;" and bringing her box of hoarded savings, she put it down at his feet.

"See!" cried the children, "here is all ours too!" and in his haste little Ned upset the mug, and all the pennies and half-dimes rolled over the floor in every direction.

"Oh, master!" cried the poor wife, "won't you be willing to sell Ben? I know I've not got enough yet; for," she added proudly, "I know Ben is worth a good price."

"Isn't there *almost* enough?" said little Susan.

"Do please let daddy be free!" said little Ned.

The planter was speechless. He was deeply touched by the scene before him. He had a heart, and it was touched. He had always believed that when slaves were freed they became lazy and improvident, living by begging and stealth; but here he saw the most untiring industry and rigid economy in a poor woman and three little children, whom he would have supposed scarcely able by all their labor to support themselves, saving a sum of money that seemed almost incredible. We know just how much he was surprised; for we have seen in all its force this fixed belief of slaveholders, that free colored people are not able to take care of themselves. He sat, looking pale and sad.

"Is master sick?" said Susan.

"Yes, good woman," said he, "sick of myself, sick of Slavery, sick of everything."

Poor Susan was bewildered; but the planter, with great effort, calmly added:

"Susan, your husband has been worth more to me than all the money in that box. I have no right to any of it; keep it for yourselves. Your husband is free from this moment. May you be as happy as you deserve to be."

He then darted out of the house.

Oh, how happy was that mother and children.—The mother fervently thanked God for his goodness, and the children danced over the floor, knocking over the poor dinner which was set out on the wash-bench into the tub of suds. Harry looked a little sober at this catastrophe; but he quickly remembered the change, and cried, "Never mind; now we can buy some dinner, can't we mother?"

When their joy had somewhat subsided, they had a nice, comfortable dinner, and there was an orange purchased for the poor, sick, little Susan.

But let us leave this happy family, and follow our planter. Having seen his injustice to one of his slaves, he was not long in perceiving that he had been unjust to all. He had inherited his slaves from his father, who was a simple-minded, good-natured man, and he had never heard a word of the wrongs of Slavery. Even when he went to the North, to one of the universities, to be educated, he did not hear whispered a word of disapprobation. But he married at the North, and his wife could never be brought to like Slavery. Her uneasiness first awakened in him a suspicion that all was not right. He encouraged her in her efforts to enlighten their slaves, and render their condition more tolerable.—He was not very far from a right state of mind when he came to Cincinnati, and it only needed the unexpected meeting with the wife and children of his most valued slave whose labor had already paid his master his market value twenty times over—working as slaves never work, and denying themselves every comfort of life, that they might purchase his freedom.

It was enough. He was convicted, and at once decided upon his future course. He immediately returned home, and as soon as he reached his plantation he declared to all his slaves that they were free. They gave the best evidence that he had been a good master to them by many of them remaining on his place as free laborers, and his rich reward was in witnessing their happiness and contentment.

Among the most joyous was Ben, who soon set out to join his family; and we leave our readers to imagine their meeting, and the comfort they enjoyed as the reward of their labor and self-denial.—*Friend of Youth.*

A CHILD'S DREAM OF A STAR.

THERE was once a child, and he strolled about a good deal, and thought of a number of things.—He had a sister who was a child too, and his constant companion. These two used to wonder all day long. They wondered at the beauty of the flowers; they wondered at the height and blueness of the sky; they wondered at the depth of the blue water; they wondered at the goodness and power of God who made the lovely world.

They used to say to one another sometimes, Supposing all the children upon earth were to die, would the flowers and the water, and the sky be sorry?—They believed they would be sorry. For, said they, the buds are the children of the flowers, and the little playful streams that gambol down the hill-sides are the children of the water; and the smallest bright specks, playing at hide and seek in the sky all night, must surely be the children of the stars; and they would all be grieved to see their playmates, the children of men, no more.

There was one clear shining star that used to come out in the sky before the rest, near the church spire, above the graves. It was larger and more beautiful, they thought, than all the others, and every night they watched for it standing hand in hand at a window. Whoever saw it first, cried out, "I see the star!" And often they cried out both together, knowing so well when it would rise, and where. So they grew to be such friends with it, that, before lying down in their beds, they always looked out once again, to bid it good night; and when they were turning round to sleep, they used to say, "God bless the star!"

But while she still was very young, oh very, very young, the sister drooped, and came to be so weak that she could no longer stand in the window at night; and then the child looked sadly out by himself, and when he saw the star, turned round and said to the patient, pale face on the bed, "I see the star!" and then a smile would come upon the face, and a little weak voice used to say, "God bless my brother and the star!"

And so the time came, all too soon! when the child looked out alone, and when there was no face on the bed; and when there was a little grave among the graves, not there before; and when the star made long rays down towards him, as he saw it through his tears.

Now, these rays were so bright, and they seemed to make such a shining way from earth to Heaven, that when the child went to his solitary bed, he dreamed about the star; dreamed that lying where he was, he saw a train of people taken up that sparkling road by angels. And the star, opening, showed him a great world of light, where many more such angels waited to receive them.

All these angels, who were waiting, turned their beaming eyes upon the people who were carried up into the star; and some came out from the long rows in which they stood, and fell upon the people's necks, and kissed them tenderly, and went away with them down avenues of light, and were so happy in their company, that lying in his bed he wept for joy.

But, there were many angels who did not go with them, and among them one he knew. The patient face that once had lain upon the bed was glorified and radiant, but his heart found out his sister among all the host.

His sister's angel lingered near the entrance of the star, and said to the leader among those who had brought the people thither:

"Is my brother come?"

And he said "No."

She was turning hopefully away, when the child stretched out his arms, and cried "Oh, sister, I am here! Take me!" and then she turned her beaming eyes upon him, and it was night; and the star was shining into the room, making long rays down towards him as he saw it through his tears.

From that hour forth, the child looked out upon the star as on the Home he was to go to, when his time should come; and he thought that he did not belong to the earth alone, but to the star too, because of his sister's angel gone before.

There was a baby born to be a brother to the child; and while he was so little that he never yet had spoken words, he stretched his tiny form out on his bed, and died.

Again the child dreamed of the opened star, and of the company of angels, and the train of people, and the rows of angels with their beaming eyes all turned upon those people's faces.

Said his sisters's angel to the leader:

"Is my brother come?"

And he said "Not that one, but another."

As the child beheld his brother's angel in her arms, he cried out, "Oh, sister, I am here! Take me!" And she turned and smiled upon him, and the star was shining.

He grew to be a young man, and was busy at his books, when an old servant came to him, and said:

"Thy mother is no more. I bring her blessing on her darling son!"

Again at night he saw the star, and all that former company. Said his his sister's angel to the leader:

"Is my brother come?"

And he said, "Thy mother!"

A mighty cry of joy went forth through all the star, because the mother was re-united to her two children. And he stretched out his arms and cried, "Oh, mother, sister, and brother, I am here! Take me!" And they answered him "Not yet," and the star was shining.

He grew to be a man, whose hair was turning grey, and he was sitting in his chair by the fireside, heavy with grief, and with his face bedewed with tears, when the star opened once again.

Said his sister's angel to the leader, "Is my brother come?"

And he said, "Nay, but his maiden daughter."

And the man who had been the child saw his daughter newly lost to him, a celestial creature among those three, and he said, "My daughter's head is on my sister's bosom, and her arm is round my mother's neck, and at her feet there is the baby of old time, and I can bear the parting from her, God be praised!"

And the star was shining.

Thus the child came to be an old man, and his once smooth face was wrinkled, and his steps were slow and feeble, and his back was bent. And one night as he lay upon his bed, his children standing round, he cried, as he had cried so long ago:

"I see the star!"

They whispered one another "He is dying."

And he said, "I am. My age is falling from me like a garment, and I move towards the star as a child. And oh, my Father, now I thank thee that it has so often opened, to receive those dear ones who await me!"

And the star was shining; and it shines upon his grave.—*Dickens' Household Words.*

WAITING AT THE STATION.

WE are amongst a number of people waiting for the Blackwall train at the Fenchurch Street Station. Some of us are going a little farther than Blackwall—as far as Gravesend; some of us are going even farther than Gravesend—to Port Philip, in South Australia, leaving behind the *patriæ fines* and the pleasant fields of old England. It is rather a queer sensation to be in the same boat and station with a party that is going upon so prodigious a journey. One speculates about them with more than an ordinary interest, thinking of the difference between your fate and theirs, and that we shall never behold these faces again.

Some eight-and-thirty women are sitting in the large Hall of the station, with bundles, baskets, and light baggage, waiting for the steamer, and the orders to embark. A few friends are taking leave of them, bonnets are laid together, and whispering going on. A little crying is taking place;—only a very little crying,—and among those who remain, as it seems to me, not those who are going away. They leave behind them little to weep for; they are going from bitter cold and hunger, constant want and unavailing labor. Why should they be sorry to quit a mother who has been so hard to them as our country has been? How many of these women will ever see the shore again, upon the brink of which they stand, and from which they will depart in a few minutes more? It makes one sad and ashamed too, that they should not be more sorry. But how are you to expect love where you have given such scanty kindness? If you saw your children glad at the thoughts of leaving you, and for ever; would you blame yourselves or them? It is not that the children are ungrateful, but the home was unhappy, and the parents indifferent or unkind. You are in the wrong under whose government they only had neglect and wretchedness; not they, who can't be called upon to love such an unlovely thing as misery, or to make any other return for neglect but indifference and aversion.

You and I, let us suppose again, are civilized persons. We have been decently educated: and live decently every day, and wear tolerable clothes, and practice cleanliness: and love the arts and graces of life. As we walk down this rank of eight-and-thirty-female emigrants, let us fancy that we are at Melbourne, and not in London, and that we have come down from our sheep-walks or clearings, having heard of the arrival of forty honest, well-recommended young women, and having a natural longing to take a wife home to the bush—which of these would you like? If you were an Australian Sultan, to which of these would you throw the handkerchief? I am afraid not one of them. I fear, in our present mood of mind, we should mount horse and return to the country, preferring a solitude, and to be a bachelor, rather than to put up with one of these for a companion. There is no girl here to tempt you by her looks; (and, world-wiseacre as you are, it is by these you are principally moved)—there is no pretty, modest, red-cheeked, rustic,—no neat, trim, little grisette, such as what we call a gentlemau might cast his eyes upon without too much derogating, and might find favor in the eyes of a man about town. No: it is a homely bevy of women with scarcely any beauty amongst them—their clothes are decent, but not the least picturesque—their faces are pale and care-worn for the most part—how, indeed, should it be otherwise, seeing that they have known care and want all their days?—there they sit upon bare benches, with dingy bundles, and great cotton umbrellas—and the truth is, you are not a hardy colonist, a feeder of sheep, a feller of trees, a hunter of kangaroos—but a London man, and my lord the Sultan's cambric handkerchief is scented with Bond Street perfumery—you put it in your pocket, and couldn't give it to any one of these women.

They are not like you, indeed. They have not your tastes and feelings: your education and refinements. They would not understand a hundred things which seem perfectly simple to you. They would shock you a hundred times a day by as many deficiencies of politeness, or by outrages upon the Queen's English—by practices entirely harmless, and yet in your eyes actually worse than crimes—they have large hard hands and clumsy feet. The women you love must have pretty soft fingers that you may hold in yours: must speak her language properly, and at least when you offer her your heart, must return hers with its *h* in the right place, as she whispers that it is yours, or you will have none of it. If she says, "O Hedward, I am so unhappy to think I shall never behold you agin,"—though her emotion on leaving you might be perfectly tender and genuine, you would be obliged to laugh. If she said, "Hedward, my art is yours for hever and hever," (and anybody heard her), she might as well stab you,—you couldn't accept the most faithful affection offered in such terms—you are a town-bred man, I say, and your handkerchief smells of Bond street musk and millefleur. A sun-burnt settler out of the Bush won't feel any of these exquisite tortures, or understand this kind of laughter, or object to Molly because her hands are coarse and her ankles thick: but he will take her back to his farm, where she will nurse her children, bake his dough, milk his cows, and cook his kangaroo for him.

But between you, an educated Londoner, and that woman, is not the union absurd and impossible?—Would it not be unbearable for either? Solitude would be incomparably pleasanter than such a companion. You might take her with a handsome fortune perhaps were you starving; but then it is because you want a house and carriage, let us say, (*your* necessaries of life,) and must have them even if you purchase them with your precious person. You do as much, or your sister does as much, every day. That however is not the point; I am not talking about the meanness to which your worship may be possibly obliged to stoop, in order, as you say, "to keep up your rank in society"—only stating that this immense social difference does exist. You don't like to own it: or don't choose to talk about it, and such things had much better not be spoken about at all. I hear your worship say, there must be differences of rank and so forth! Well! out with it at once, you don't think MOLLY is your equal—nor indeed is she in the possession of many artificial acquirements. She can't make Latin verses, for example, as you used to do at school, she can't speak French and Italian as your wife very likely can, &c.—and in so far she is your inferior, and your amiable lady's.

But what I note, what I marvel at, what I acknowledge, what I am ashamed of, what is contrary to Christian morals, manly modesty and honesty, and to the national well-being, is that there should be that immense social distinction between the well-dressed classes (as, if you will permit me, we will call ourselves) and our brethren and sisters in the fustian jackets and pattens. If you deny it for your part, I say that you are mistaken, and deceive yourself woefully. I say that you have been educated to it through Gothic ages, and have had it handed down to you from your fathers (not that they were anybody in particular, but respectable, well-dressed progenitors, let us say for a generation or two) from your well-dressed fathers before you. How long ago is it, that our preachers were teaching the poor "to know their station?" that it was the peculiar boast of Englishmen that any man the humblest among us, could, by talent, industry and good luck, hope to take his place in the aristocracy of his country, and that we pointed with pride to Lord This who was the grandson of a barber; and to Earl That, whose father was an Apothecary?—what a multitude of most respectable folks pride themselves on these things still! The gulf is not impassable, because one man in a million swims over it, and we hail him for his strength and success. He has landed on the happy island. He is one of the aristocracy. Let us clap hands and applaud. There's no country like ours for rational freedom.

If you go up and speak to one of these women, as you do (and very good-naturedly, and you can't help that confounded condescension) she curtsies and holds down her head meekly, and replies with modesty, as becomes her station, to your honor with the clean shirt and the well-made coat. And so she should; what hundreds of thousands of us rich and poor say still. Both believe this to be bounden duty; and that a poor person should naturally bob her head to a rich one physically and morally.

Let us get her last curtsey from her as she stands here upon the English shore. When she gets into the Australian woods her back won't bend except to her labor; or, if it do, from old habit and the reminiscence of the old country, do you suppose her children will be like that timid creature before you? They will know nothing of that Gothic society, with its ranks and hierarchies, its cumbrous ceremonies, its glittering antique paraphernalia, in which we have been educated; in which rich and poor still acquiesce, and which multitudes of both still admire: far removed from these old-world traditions, they will be bred up in the midst of plenty, freedom, manly brotherhood. Do you think if your worship's grandson goes into the Australian woods, or meets the grandchild of one of yonder women by the banks of the Warrawarra, the Australian will take a hat off or bob a curtsey to the new comer? He will hold out his hand, and say, "Stranger, come into my house, and take a shakedown and have a share of our supper. You come out of the old country, do you! There were some people were kind to my grandmother there, and sent her out to Melbourne. Times are changed since then—come in and welcome!"

What a confession it is that we have almost all of us been obliged to make! A clever and earnest-minded writer gets a commission from the *Morning Chronicle* newspaper, and reports upon the state of our poor in London; he goes amongst laboring people and poor of all kinds—and brings back what? A picture of human life so wonderful, so awful, so piteous and pathetic, so exciting and terrible, that readers of romances own they never read anything like to it; and that the griefs, struggles, strange adventures here depicted exceed anything that any of us could imagine. Yes; and these wonders and terrors have been lying by your door and mine ever since we had a door of our own. We had but to go a hundred yards off and see for ourselves, but we never did. Don't we pay poor-rates, and are they not heavy enough in the name of patience? Very true; and we have our own private pensioners, and we give away some of our superfluity, very likely. You are not unkind; not ungenerous. But of such wondrous and complicated misery as this you confess you had no idea? No. How should you?—you and I—we are of the upper classes; we have had hitherto no communiuy with the poor. We never speak a word to the servant who waits on us for twenty years; we condescend to employ a tradesman, keeping him at a proper distance, mind—of course, at a proper distance—we laugh at his young men, if they dance, jig, and amuse themselves like their betters, and call them counter jumpers, snobs, and what not; of his workmen we know nothing, how pitilessly they are ground down, how they live and die, here close by us at the backs of our houses: until some poet like HOOD wakes and sings that dreadful "*Song of the Shirt;*" some prophet like CARLYLE rises up and denounces woe; some clear-sighted, energetic man like the writer of the *Chronicle* travels into the poor man's country for us, and comes back with his tale of terror and wonder.

Awful, awful poor man's country! The bell rings and these eight-and-thirty women bid adieu to it, rescued from it (as a few thousands more will be) by some kind people who are interested in their behalf. In two hours more, the steamer lies alongside the ship *Culloden*, which will bear them to their new home. Here are the berths aft for the unmarried women, the married couples are in the midships, the bachelors in the fore-part of the ship. Above and below decks it swarms and echoes with the bustle of departure. The Emigration Commissioner comes and calls over their names; there are old and young, large families, numbers of children already accustomed to the ship, and looking about with amused unconsciousness. One was born but just now on board: he will not know how to speak English till he is fifteen thousand miles away from home. Some of those kind people whose bounty and benevolence organized the Female Emigration Scheme, are here to give a last word and shake of the hand to their *protegees*. They hang sadly and gratefully round their patrons. One of them, a clergyman, who has devoted himself to this good work, says a few words to them at parting. It is a solmen minute indeed—for those who (with the few thousand who will follow them) are leaving the country and escaping from the question between rich and poor! and what for those who remain? But, at least, those who go will remember that in their misery here they found gentle hearts to love and pity them, and generous hearts to give them succor, and will plant in the new country this grateful tradition of the old—May Heaven's good mercy speed them!—*Punch.*

Gleanings from Foreign Publications.

THE total amount of head money for pirates captured since the passing of the act in 1825, for encouraging the capture or destruction of piratical vessels, is shown, by a recent return called for by Mr. HUME, to be $57,256.

——THE word "News" says Mr. Gutch, in "Notes and Queries," is not derived, as many suppose, from the adjective *new*, but from a practice that obtained in newspapers of an early date, of prefixing to the title the letters expressive of the cardinal points, thus:—

N.
E. W
S.

"meaning that their intelligence was derived from all quarters of the globe."

——WEIGHTS AND MEASURES FOR THE MILLION.
One pound of chalk makes—two gallons of milk.
Two twigs of birch broom—one ounce of tea.
Three ounces of sand—half a pound of sugar.
One stick of Spanish liquorice—two pots of porter.
Twenty noisy boys—one infuriated beadle.
Six friends in the pit—one blaze of triumph.
Eight Protectionist facts—one falsehood.—*Punch.*

——THE Paris correspondent of the *Medical Times* states, that the "very Rev. Jesuits, into whose hands the destinies of France have fallen," have established a new class of diseases, under the title of *irreligious*; and have reduced their inhuman theory to practice. Ricord (the physician) had occasion to require an artificial palate for one of his patients at the Lock Hospital; he therefore gave an order to the Director of the Hospital, who referred, in his turn, to the General Committee; the answer was, "*that no remedies could be supplied to sinners laboring under irreligious disorders.*"

——MR. CARLYLE'S article in *Fraser's Magazine* was thus referred to in the House of Commons by Col. Thompson. He said, "He was afraid there existed a strong desire on the part of some to see the sinews and limbs of the African employed in profitable industry, not throughout the African continent only, but elsewhere,—English commerce, of course, taking its share—(hear, hear). Had they not seen an eminent literary character *once* an honor to literature declaring that the beneficent whip was the only thing fit for negroes and Irishmen."—(laughter)?

——MR. JUSTICE ALDERSON'S well-known horror of the dog-latin of medical men displayed itself last week at the Carlisle Assizes. A surgeon, who was giving evidence as to the state in which a gamekeeper's body was found, stated that "His right eye was surrounded by a black rising." The Judge—Does that mean he had a black eye?" Witness—"Yes." Judge—"Then why don't you say so?" Witness—"It was much congested." Judge—"Do you mean bloodshot?" Witness—"Yes, my lord." Judge (tartly)—"Then pray use terms we can understand; don't be so learned. I know what you mean, but the word may be new to most of the jury."

——"HERE is a man at Keswick, who acts upon me as my own ghost would do. He is just what I was in 1794. His name is Shelley, son to the member for Shoreham; with £6,000 a year entailed upon him, and as much more in his father's power to cut off. Beginning with romances of ghosts and murder, and with poetry at Eton, he passed, at Oxford, into metaphysics; printed half-a-dozen pages, which he entitled 'The necessity of Atheism;' sent one anonymously to Coplestone, in expectation, I suppose, of converting him; was expelled in consequence; married a girl of seventeen, after being turned out of doors by his father; and here they both are, in lodgings, living upon £200 a year, which her father allows them. He is come to the fittest physician in the world. At present he has got to the Pantheistic stage of philosophy, and, in the course of a week, I expect he will be a Berkleyan, for I have put him upon a course of Berkley. It has surprised him a good deal to meet, for the first time in his life, with a man who perfectly understands him, and does him full justice. I tell him that all the difference between us is, that he is nineteen, and I am thirty-seven; and I dare say it will not be very long before I shall succeed in convincing him that he may be a true philosopher, and do a good deal of good, with £6,000 a year; the thought of which troubles him a great deal more at present than ever the want of sixpence (for I have known such a want) did me."—*Life of Southey.*

——SENSE AND SENSATION.—The greyhound runs by the eyesight only, and this we observe as a fact. The carrier-pigeon flies his two hundred and fifty miles homeward, by eye-sight, viz., from point to point of objects which he has *marked*; but this is only our conjecture. The fierce dragon-fly, with twelve thousand lenses in his eyes, darts from angle to angle with the rapidity of a flashing sword, and as rapidly darts back—not turning in the air, but with a clash reversing the action of his four wings—the only known creature that possesses this faculty. His sight then, both forwards and backwards, must be proportionately rapid with his wings, and instantaneously calculating the distance of objects, or he would dash himself to pieces. But in what conformation of his eye does this consist? No one can answer. A cloud of ten thousand gnats dances up and down in the sun the gnats being so close together that you can scarce see the minutes interval between them, yet no one knocks another headlong upon the grass, or breaks a leg or a wing, long and delicate as these are. Suddenly, amidst your admiration of this matchless dance, a pecnliarly high-shouldered vicious gnat, with long, pale, pendant nose, darts out of the rising and falling cloud, and settling on your cheek inserts a poisonous sting. What possessed the little wretch to do this? Did he smell your blood in the mazy dance? No one knows. A four-horse coach comes suddenly upon a flock of geese on a narrow road, and drives straight through the middle of them. A goose was never yet fairly run over, nor a duck. They are under the very wheels and hoofs and yet, somehow, they contrive to flap and waddle safely off. Habitually stupid, heavy, and indolent, they are, nevertheless, equal to any emergency. Why does the lonely woodpecker, when he descends his tree and goes to drink, stop several times on his way,—listen, and look round—before he takes his draught? No one knows. How is it that the species of ant, which is taken in battle by other ants to be made slaves, should be the black, or the negro-ant? No one knows.—*The Poor Artist.*

——THE ANTI-SLAVERY DEPUTATION TO THE COLONIES.—Letters have been received of a most important character, from our esteemed friends, Messrs. G. W. Alexander and John Candler, now on a visit to the British colonies, for the purpose of inquiring into their present condition and future prospects. They have finished their tour of inspection of Barbadoes, British Guinna, Trinidad, and were at Grenada at the latest dates. Thence they proceed to St. Vincent, the French islands of Martinique and Guadalope, touching at such English islands as may lay in their track, the Danish islands of St. Thomas and Santa Cruz, island of St. Bartholomew, and finally, they propose to close their investigations in Jamaica. The regret felt is, that our friends are not able to remain longer in the several colonies which they visit, as they present fields for Christian usefulness and benevolent exertion of an important kind. The information they have already collected is extensive and valuable, and, when it shall have been ripened by further examination and reflection, will be found of great value to all sincerely desirous of advancing the true interests of the colonies, and the welfare of their populations. It will be satisfactory to our readers to know that Messrs. Alexander and Candler, and their ladies, are in good health. We may add that, in the several colonies which our friends have visited, they have held Anti-Slavery and Temperance meetings, which have been largely attended, and apparently with great success.—*Anti-Slavery Reporter.*

——AMERICAN COURTSHIP.—The ladies' parlor has been a great amusement to me here. Two of the *habitues* were a young lady and gentleman under an engagement of marriage. The loving pair invariably occupied two rocking-chairs, placed exactly opposite to each other. The movement of each was incessant, and did not seem to break the thread of any sentimental discourse, for very little of any kind was carried on.—They seemed gravely intent upon the swaying and soothing motion, which now brought them in close proximity, and the next moment interposed a yard or two of space between their faces. They were by far the most sleepy-looking lovers I ever saw. The rest of the occupants of the room were dotted about the spacious apartment on similar seats, most of them in a perfect state of idleness, and apparently only intent on getting through the time between the meals as well as they were able. It is the custom for young engaged couples to have visiting tickets printed, with their respective names engraved on the same cards. They are then tied together with white ribbons, and during these intervals of rocking the pair sally forth, and leave tokens of civility at the houses of their mutual friends (!!!)—*Hesperos.*

——IN the course of a recent discussion in the House of Lords, on the subject of Sunday postage, Lord Brougham said, "The persons who advocated these extreme views inflicted the greatest mischiefs upon the observance of the Sabbath. These extravagances tended to make that unpopular which would otherwise be a most popular institution. Did the persons who cried out against the transmission of mails on Sundays wish to stop the mail packets as well?—Would they have the steam-engine stopped, the steam blown off, and the vessel 'brought to' from Saturday night until early on Monday morning—blow fair or blow foul?—(a laugh). Let it be remembered that, although the sea was the 'highway of nations,' there were no inns on that road"—(a laugh).

——RETURN OF THE POPE.—Cardinal Antonelli has addressed the following notice to the diplomatic body on the subject of the Pope's return:

'FROM THE ROYAL PALACE OF PORTICI, March 12.

"The rebellion which so long oppressed the Pontifical subjects during the late events, having been quelled by the arms of the Catholic powers, the legitimate government has been by degrees revived in the Ecclesiastical States, to the satisfaction of all good men. Still, to fulfil the wishes of Catholicism and of the subjects devoted to their sovereign, the return of the Holy Pontiff to his See was still wanting. Various difficulties have hitherto contributed to retard it, and especially the anxious desire of his Holiness to rel